

Brundall Parish Council Annual Report 2016



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Welcome

This report assesses the progress that the Brundall Parish Council has made during the past twelve months.

As ever, it has been a very eventful year in the life of the Council with a focus upon neighbourhood development and planning. The Parish Council continues to work with the community and its groups to ensure that the parish is looked after to the highest of standards and with a proactive approach so that its future is better secured and well planned.

It is hoped that through this report, you – the residents of Brundall can see that this Council is determined to make living in Brundall better.

About Brundall

Brundall is approximately six miles east of Norwich, lying on the banks of the river Yare. From a population of around 300 only 50 years ago, it now contains over 4,000 inhabitants, many of whom work in the city of Norwich. It does, however, still retain the atmosphere of a village and manages to cultivate a very active community life. It is served by both bus and train routes and the level crossing at Brundall station is still manually operated.

The closeness of different amenities to the centre of the village helps to foster a positive and friendly community spirit. Close by is the Memorial Hall, which is a regular home to many sports and other local groups.

As the village has excellent road access and regular bus and train services it's not surprising that many people decide to make it their permanent home.

Chairman's Report

Chairman's Annual Report 2016

I think that all Councillors will agree with me that it has been a busy twelve months. Many of the irons that the Council has had in the fire are now coming to fruition with the referendum on the neighbourhood plan, site allocations soon to be adopted, the magnificent efforts devoted to Cremer's meadow, the Country Park and Low Farm Wood. There is also the very successful Park Run that brings much pleasure and a few aching muscles to its participants. In May last year we had national and local elections and in Brundall we said goodbye to our retiring Councillors Heidi Thompson, Sarah Woollestone, Leslie Mogford, Rob Hetherington and thank each and every one of them for their contribution to the wellbeing of the Parish during their term of Office. In their place we welcome Councillors Laura Rycroft, Paul Taylor, John Philp and Frank Thorpe who are already making a significant contribution to the running of the Council. I also believe this is the right opportunity to place on record that we as a Parish are very fortunate to have as our Clerk Sharon Smyth. With her administrative skills and knowledge of Parish Council procedures we have in our midst a very professional and efficient Clerk. I also must make mention of her constant good humour even when under immense pressures from the demands of the role.

We are all aware that the Pastures development is coming towards fruition and although some may not agree, aesthetically it is a development that is blending in with the rest of the village. We welcome the new residents into our midst and trust they will successfully integrate into village social life and the organisations it supports.

It is no secret that further developments are muted for the village and will no doubt necessitate some robust negotiations with the developers for appropriate recreational facilities and or substantial monetary benefits for the good of all. With the pressures emanating from Whitehall for sustainable development, I believe it is the duty of the Parish Council to ensure that the developers are kept aware of the need for village infrastructure and recreational facilities to keep pace with the population increase the expansion of Brundall will bring. To this end, the Parish Councils CDROB Committee, (Committee for the development of recreational facilities in Brundall) is working hard to ensure those objectives are met. At this juncture in my report, I must thank those members of CDROB under the Chairmanship of Councillor Kevin Wilkins for all their hard work and commitment in this matter. This committee, which is made up of both village residents and Councillors have demonstrated a determination to achieve recreational resources that we trust will be second to none if realized. They are showing that, by clear communication and drawing on the views and opinions expressed by the majority of villagers as to what Brundall wants or is desirable, clear and defined proposals can be put to developers by working as a cohesive team speaking with one voice.

I shall not comment in depth about our other Friends of Bodies as the Chairs of those groups will give their own reports. However, the village owes a debt of gratitude to the friends of Church Fen, Cremer's Meadow and the Country Park. Church Fen is an established entity but still requires monitoring and maintenance to keep it preserved as a natural part of the Broads vista and to be enjoyed by all. Cremer's Meadow is being lovingly turned into a place of natural beauty and when completed will be a nature reserve the whole village can be proud of. Cllr Jill Buckley is to be thanked for her leadership of the Friends Group undertaking the work and the very full and comprehensive reports on their progress. The Country Park is another project that is gradually coming together by dint of the commitment and giving of their time by its friends under the stewardship of Greg

Chandler. Trees planted last year are springing into growth and wild flowers sown are beginning to show their faces. It is common knowledge that some villagers had grave doubts about the creation of the Country Park and the associated allotments. It is my sincere hope that their concerns have been assuaged by the planting of trees, flora and fauna. Naturalization of this area is taking place as everything planted matures and as the seasons pass; we trust it will become an area of natural beauty to be enjoyed by all. None of this would have been possible on either of these sites or throughout the village had it not been for the volunteers who have so willingly given of their time to all. Brundall is indeed very fortunate that it has so many people who wish to be involved in community projects. The Brundall Allotments Association is now established as the governing body for the day to day management of the allotment plots and there is a good level of demand for them. It is rewarding for Councillors to see how Allotmenters have gathered their first full produce harvest. To those Brundall residents who had or still have concerns regarding the management of individual plots, be assured the Council has a robust agreement with the BAA to ensure continued good husbandry on the site.

Another major work carried out by the Parish Council and in particular Cllr Martin Davies assisted by our Chief Planning Advisor Cllr Ian Walters was the Neighbourhood Plan. This I am delighted to say resulted in a 92% vote in favour of adoption by the just under 30% of Parishioners voting. It is sad that more Parishioners didn't consider it worth voting one way or the other on this matter but individual choice to participate but that is democracy. Cllr Walters will, I am sure, have more to say about these matters later in his planning report.

As our village is continuing to evolve and grow, a point of view that is starting to be heard is asking what Brundall is becoming. Presently, we are a parish of four thousand plus people, but with more development we could become a possible five thousand plus population. Are we gradually becoming more of a dormitory for Norwich or a sprawling suburb with little individual identity? Perhaps we should start contemplating on our current civic status and reflect on how to retain our identity as a desirable place to live. Should we retain our Parish status or contemplate working towards becoming a town in our own right. We are certainly becoming big enough to have that civic identity. We as a Council now have our own established 'public face' since renting an office in the Memorial Hall which has certainly enhanced our profile as "the Council". Our landlord is the Memorial Hall with whom we have an excellent relationship based on mutual concord and respect. It would be remiss of me not to report on the respect and friendship enjoyed by the Council with the Church of St Lawrence and its rector the Rev Peter Leech. The "Working Church" group continue to give of their time and efforts in keeping footpaths in the village useable and our parish cemetery in a neat and tidy state. It just goes to prove that the majority of residents are very proud of our village and are determined to keep it so.

However, one of the aspects of the twenty first century is the challenge of traffic and its management in residential areas. As localities grow, traffic density grows and parking facilities become more pressurized. The car cannot be un-invented and in much of rural Norfolk is a necessity. Therefore, we must adopt a realistic stance to how we make our community safe for all. Perhaps a debate on whether the Street is designated a twenty miles per hour zone for its entire length and possibly, some of the housing estates? To counter speeding we have installed new flashing speed signs on Strumpshaw Road, Postwick Lane and have one that is interchangeable between five other locations. In addition to our speed watch volunteers, these add an invaluable deterrent to the speeding driver. It is my belief that more public parking is desirable to ensure our narrow Parish roads are kept free and assist in preventing congestion. By this we maintain the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and other road users. Our one small car park on the Street is

continually at near full capacity and sometimes makes it difficult for the shopper or visitor to park safely. We want to encourage local people, visitors and tourists to use our businesses and do not want them deterred by a lack of parking facilities. By being seen to be open for business, they bring employment and economic benefits to Brundall.

The coming year will see us having to deal with more incoming planning applications where some will have a greater impact on the village than others. In this regard the Parish Council will ensure it acts in the best interests of the village, and parishioners will see us making preparations to carry out their wishes regarding the provision of adequate recreational and social resources.

In conclusion, the Parish Council is not some remote autonomous entity; its membership comes from Brundall village people, who we trust know their parish. Who have their feet on the ground, listen to what is being said to them and act in the best interest of Brundall to ensure the quality of life is such that we can all go on saying, we are proud to live here.

Cllr John S. Warne
Chairman
Brundall Parish Council.

Report by the District and County Councillor – Andrew Proctor

Proposed Devolution Deal

In March, the Chancellor's budget speech included confirmation that after months of negotiation government had offered to devolve significant powers and money to East Anglia (Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs & Peterborough) including the New Anglia LEP.

The offer includes:

- £30m p.a. of new money to support economic growth over the next 30 years
- Control of millions of pounds of multi-year consolidated and devolved transport budget
- New powers over infrastructure, developing skills for employment, and improving our health and social care system
- £175 million of capital grant for the East to deliver an ambitious target of new homes in line with national targets over 5 years.
- The deal would also include the creation of a combined authority for East Anglia, chaired by a directly elected Mayor supported by a cabinet made up from leaders from the partner authorities.

It would see the transfer of significant resources and powers from central government to the region but at this stage specifically for infrastructure, housing, economic development and jobs and skills. Councils would still keep their sovereignty and deliver local services.

Budgets

From a headline point of view the 2016/17 net revenue budget for the county council will be £339million. For the first time for many years the county council's share of council tax has been increased by 3.99% (including 2% specifically for adult social care services). This amounts to an increase of £45.72 a year for a Band D household.

Broadland District Council, with a much smaller net revenue budget of under £12m, did not increase its share of council tax.

For NCC the increase meant that many front line services would be retained:

- Reverse the closure of fire stations
- Restore Norfolk Arts Service grants
- Reverse Norfolk Museums Service lone-working proposal
- Reverse Museums Service redesign
- Reverse saving on Norfolk Record Office - search room, new archives and conservation work
- Restore Norfolk Record Office - opening hours and specialist archive work
- Restore Libraries materials spend and associated staff
- Historic Environment service
- Highways maintenance standards
- Restore bank-holiday opening at recycling centres
- Re-open Docking recycling centre and restore full-time opening at Ashill, Heacham and Morningthorpe recycling centres

A new initiative saw the creation of a pot-hole and small projects fund of £1.5million – this is to ensure not only good quality roads, but, crucially, a good standard of road safety.

Broadland with a smaller budget has taken a different approach of using reserves for the time being to support its budget but recognising savings will need to be made. A major programme of service review is being undertaken and seeking income generation opportunities.

Changes at Norfolk recycling centres

From 1st April until 30th September, with the exception of Mile Cross in Norwich, all recycling centres across Norfolk will be operating under the new summer opening hours timetable - open from 9am until 5pm (under the previous summer schedule, sites were open until 6pm).

Also from 1st April, the price of disposing of tyres at the eight recycling centres which accept them, will increase to £4 per tyre, to cover the full costs of collection and disposal. The number of tyres which can be accepted at the sites will still be limited to five per household per week. Bicycle tyres are still accepted for free.

£9.7m road surface dressing programme starts in Norfolk this month (April 2016)
NCC's annual road surface-dressing programme for 2016, one of the best ways of extending the life of roads while contributing to safety by improving skid resistance and preventing potholes, will begin on Wednesday 13 April, with work starting in the Great Yarmouth, Bradwell and east coastal areas.

Parish Partnership Scheme (March 2016)

Funding of £380,000 for 122 small scale highway projects across Norfolk was approved in March, matched by Parish and town councils, who put in bids for funding for schemes important to their local area.

The most popular bids have been for road safety initiatives - vehicle activated signs and part-time advisory 20mph speed limit signs with flashing warning lights installed outside schools.

Record turnout in Norfolk's Youth Parliament elections

A record number of Norfolk's young people have voted to elect nine new Members of Youth Parliament (MYP) representing each of the county's political constituencies. A total of 39,938 of Norfolk's 11-18 year-olds cast their vote for free on their mobile phones for their preferred candidate. The figure represents 51% of the county's 11-18 year-olds, the last election in 2014 saw a turnout of 48%.

The MYPs will spend two years in office, meeting monthly at County Hall and attending other meetings as well as going to the House of Commons.

Roads, Transport and Infrastructure News

The Postwick Hub has been completed and whilst there have been some initial problems with signage things have now settled down.

The NDR is underway

In March, Patrick McLoughlin MP, the Secretary of State for Transport, came to see the route of the Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR) and declared himself pleased with the progress made in preparing for the main start of works. He commented that he was: "...pleased to see that work is now underway on this important scheme which will help deliver 10,000 new homes and 12,000 jobs."

The road, when it opens in early 2018, will be a 20km dual carriageway running from the A47 at Postwick, south-east of Norwich, to the A1067 north-west of the city, and is currently the country's biggest local authority-promoted road building project.

Meanwhile, 2015 saw the lowest ever number of people killed on Norfolk's roads, but no room for complacency (January 2016)

The road casualties figures for 2015, released by the Norfolk Road Casualty Reduction Partnership, show that fewer people have died on Norfolk's roads over the last year than ever before. The statistics show that the numbers of road users suffering fatal or slight injuries reduced compared with the previous year, although serious injuries increased.

Norfolk road casualty statistics - 2011-2015

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Fatal	43	39	40	39	33
Serious	312	314	352	340	352
Slight	2,136	2,011	1,999	2,199	1,990

Total	2,491	2,364	2,391	2,578	2,375
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Access to high-speed broadband doubles in Norfolk as first Better Broadband contract completes ahead of schedule and under budget (October 2015)

185,885 mainly rural homes and businesses have been given access to fibre-enabled broadband, thanks to the first Better Broadband contract – completed ahead of schedule. Originally due to finish last December, it was announced at the end of October that the first Better Broadband for Norfolk (BBfN) programme contract completed three months early, reached more properties than anticipated and made significant savings.

More than 80% of households and businesses in the county can now buy a superfast broadband service (24 Megabits per second and above), nearly double the number who could receive these speeds three years ago before the BBfN programme got underway.

The money saved as part of the first contract will now be reinvested in the next phase of the BBfN programme, which is due to bring faster broadband speeds to even more remote parts of the county.

Broadland District Council is proposing to invest £560,000 into the project, as other districts are doing, to increase the coverage purely for Broadland residents and businesses.

Children’s Services – a mixed picture

Council’s children’s services under the spotlight after new ‘inadequate’ rating from Ofsted (December 2015)

In December the government announced that a special commissioner would be coming in to help improve children’s services in Norfolk. This comes after the county council was given another ‘inadequate’ rating by Ofsted. Dave Hill is the executive director of people commissioning (including children’s services) at Essex County Council, and has been working with Norfolk’s staff for the last few months now with the aim of helping the council develop better ways of working and, most importantly, better outcomes.

In their report, Ofsted highlights under-developed services for children in, and leaving, the council’s care.

It is to be hoped that the commissioner will be able to help bring about the much-needed improvements. The ultimate sanction, would be to place the children’s services in a self-governing trust, if he felt the leadership was inadequate. There will be more updates on this in the coming months.

However, good news on GCSE results for Norfolk’s pupils (October 2016)

Norfolk’s schools have narrowed the gap on the national average at GCSE for the second successive year, according to provisional results published last autumn. The statistics show that 53.8% of students achieved five A* to C grades, including English and maths - compared with 52% on the same day last year* (an improvement of 1.8 percentage points). Progress in maths in Norfolk is particularly strong – 67.3% of students made expected progress in the county, putting Norfolk above the national average of 66.6%.

The news follows rapid improvements in both assessment results for five-year-olds and phonics results for six-year-olds this year. Reading performance for seven-year-olds has also gone above the national average for the first time.

Rise in number of Norfolk's young people in education or training (February 2016)

Norfolk has seen a big rise in the number of 16-18 year olds now in education, employment or training. There are 1,128 more young people in the county participating in further education and training compared to May last year. Since that time, there has been a significant increase in the two areas of greatest challenge: increasing participation at 17 and reducing the number of unknowns. The pace of improvement for participation at 17 has increased at such a rate that it is now in line with the national average. In addition, the participation of 16 year olds is now well above the national average. The number of unknowns has also reduced from 16.1% in May 2015 to 6.8% in December 2015 (national average is 10.6%). The average percentage of 16-18 year olds classed as NEET (not in education, employment or training) for November 2015-January 2016 was 4.2%, which is now in line with the national figure.

Joint venture helps vulnerable families stay together (September 2015)

An innovative project which aims to help Norfolk families stay together by providing vulnerable parents with targeted mental health support has had a successful first six months, with no babies on the scheme coming into care.

The Norfolk Parent Infant Mental Health Attachment Project (NPIMHAP) has seen a team of therapists, psychiatrists, social workers, health professionals and family support workers liaise to provide parents with a specially tailored package of support designed to improve their relationship with their baby.

A joint initiative between Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust (NSFT) and Norfolk County Council, it works specifically with mums at risk of post-natal depression and psychosis, as well as those who have difficulty forming attachments with their children. It was launched in response to the high numbers of children aged under two who are in care in Norfolk, and has been made possible by a £625,000 grant from the government.

New short-breaks service launched to help reduce numbers in care (March 2015)

A new service was launched early last year in Norfolk to help reduce the number of children in care and support families to stay together. Norfolk County Council's new 'short-breaks service' provides access to leisure and educational activities and time away from home for those at risk of coming into care. Building on the short-breaks services already provided for children with disabilities, it gives young people an opportunity to have much needed breaks in a specially designed home in Norwich. The service means children aged from six to 17 get to spend time away from home, with access to a range of support. The service was inspired by a successful scheme in Blackburn, which has helped to reduce the number of children coming into care by giving families respite, particularly when their children have challenging behaviour.

Waste news

Norfolk/Suffolk waste deal extended

The inter-county deal, which sees some of Norfolk's waste dealt with at Suffolk County Council's new energy-from-waste (EFW) plant was extended to 2020. The extension was

agreed as part of Norfolk County Council's work to secure four years' worth of waste services, using facilities that are already up and running inside or outside Norfolk, to deal with the 210,000 tonnes of rubbish left after recycling that Norfolk generates each year.

The new recycling arrangements across the whole of Norfolk have now been running since October 2014. Recycling rates are increasing but the challenges of ensuring materials are not contaminated and finding the best markets for their resale remain.

Health and Well Being

The Norfolk Health and Well Being Board is responsible for setting the strategy for health improvement across the county concentrating on the under 5s, reducing obesity and mental health particularly. Broadland has a key role to play in providing good quality housing and housing services, physical activity for young and not so young people, the "Why Weight" programme, committing to be a dementia friendly organisation and the Handyperson + service.

Planning

Broadland's key local plans of site allocation and the Area Action Plan for the North East Growth Triangle are nearing the end of their examination processes and should be formally adopted by the end of the year.

The number of Neighbourhood Plans being worked on and adopted is rapidly increasing which add weight to what people want to see locally from development. Broadland has one of the highest numbers of Neighbourhood Plans in the country.

Carrowbreck

For the first time for over 30 years Broadland is building houses. 14 houses are being constructed on the site at Carrowbreck in Hellesdon. 8 will be for outright sale but 6 will be sold at 75% of the market value to create opportunities for people to get on to the housing ladder. This is part of the income generation programme.

Report by Rev Peter Leech

Report for the Brundall Annual Parish Meeting: [25/4/16]

One of the priorities for the Yare Valley Churches is to ensure that we are continuing to support the community in a variety of different ways. Over the past year, we have been privileged to have been able to support a number of community initiatives - some of which have been new, others we have seen develop and grow.

Luncheon Club:

This continues to provide a hot meal every fortnight for those who are living alone. There are currently 36 members who attend each meal. The club is self-financing and its run by two teams of volunteers, cooks, waiters, dishwashers, drivers, flower arrangers, furniture arrangers and treasurer.

Good Neighbour Scheme:

Trevor Plater has recently set up the Good Neighbour Scheme for Brundall and Blofield, which the church is been pleased to support. A good number of volunteers have come forward and the committee is considering the launch date for the scheme. We hope that it will ensure that people feel less isolated and will enhance and build the sense of 'community' across the village.

Forget-Me-Not Cafe:

This now runs twice a week (Tuesdays 2-4pm and Thursdays 10am-12noon). It is a place that supports all those on the dementia pathway, and for some offers company and respite on a journey that is long, difficult at times and can feel very lonely and isolated.

As a church we are currently in the process of becoming a 'Dementia Friendly Church' with training planned and other changes made to ensure we are accessible to those on the dementia journey.

Community Cafe:

This runs once a month (third Thursday of the month, 2:30-4pm) but will be running weekly from September. It provides a space where people can congregate, chat, a place where people can find company as well as a nice cuppa and piece of cake. We offer a blend of activities, board games, news papers and good food. It is staffed by a dedicated team who have all undergone food safety training and who are passionate about providing a space and an atmosphere where people feel welcomed and valued.

Tea and Chat:

The Tea and Chat Bereavement group meets on the third Tuesday of the month in the Church Meeting room. At the moment we have up to ten people who attend most months. We find that the emotional and practical support that we can give each other is very beneficial.

Quite a few friendships have been formed between people who didn't know each other before attending the group.

Coffee Break:

Coffee break continues to offer refreshments and a warm welcome in our Wednesday morning slot at the Memorial Hall, reaching out to the community. We aim to provide an atmosphere where people can pop in on their own for a chat or use it to meet up with friends.

Place 2B Me:

This runs every Friday from 3:30-5pm and is for young people in schools years 6 and above. We have on average 25 young people each week attending to play video games, snooker, table tennis, table football etc. We also offer 'off-site' trips (e.g. snow tubing and bowling) once a term.

Place 2B Me [Latte] is for 14-19 year olds and meets every Thursday evening (7:30-9:30pm) and about 8-10 young people attend regularly.

Brundall Voice:

We are pleased to be able to support in any way that is needed, the Brundall Voice - a group of young people who are keen to make a difference within this locality.

Study Hub:

We were successful in securing Lottery Funding in order to purchase tablets and laptops to start up the Study Hub as a means of helping young people in our community by providing a space for them to complete homework or other school-based tasks in a relaxed, cafe-style atmosphere where there is mentoring and assistance offered through the well qualified team of adults. In addition to homework, help can also be give to other projects and coursework as well as helping with revision techniques. We plan to extend the use of the equipment to others within the community.

Trip to India:

We were able to take a group of young people to India during the summer to understand the work of the Vidiyal Trust and to be able to support the work in practical ways. It is true to say that the trip was eye-opening and life-changing as well as being perception-changing for all concerned.

Holiday Club

This runs during the first full week of the summer holidays. It is open to anyone in the community who is of primary school age.

Church Room refurbishment:

This is finally going ahead and will be completed by the end of August. It will provide a meeting space for use by the whole community and refurbished, well-equipped kitchen for us to enhance the provision for the community.

Residential Care Home Support:

Teams from the church go into each of the residential care homes each month to sing hymns and befriend the residents.

It is the many volunteers that are involved in the work that make it all happen - people who give selflessly of their time and talents. The volunteers are drawn from all areas of the community and we thank them for all that they do.

John Evans Good Citizen Award 2016

At Brundall's Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 25th April, the recipient of the 2016 John Evans Good Citizen award is Martin Davies.



Martin with his award. Picture courtesy of Rev Peter Leech

Martin has been awarded this honour because of his work towards the creation of the Countryside park which includes the parkrun and the new woodland and allotment areas. He was instrumental in negotiating the purchase of Cremer's Meadow which now has County wildlife status and has already won a Bio diversity award. Martin is a keen gardener, bridge club member, allotment plot holder and along with his wife Judy enjoys walks around the parish with his two dogs. Having now resigned from parish council duties he is now a trustee on the Memorial Hall Committee. The Council has thanked him for all his kind contributions in making Brundall a superb place to live.

Report by the Responsible Financial Officer

The Precept for the last year (2015/16) was set at £68409.00. We have decided to set the 2016-17 Precept at £75,000.00 meaning an increase of £6591.00. On your Council Tax bills this amount equates to a 1.9% increase. To explain, an increase is necessary once use of existing reserves have become close to being all used up.

Spending of the S106 allocated funds for land acquisition has begun to slow up and I anticipate with optimism that the majority of the funds remaining, with the Council's approval, will be allocated towards the CDROB recreation project, whose aims are to provide outdoor formal sports and recreation for the village.

Of the £200,000 original ex gratia allocation received in 2014, there remains £46866.96. At this point last year there remained £65570. This last year has been a year with a variety of

demands upon the reserves as well as the budget precept. The inevitable “pull” of expenditure requests has been a challenge to monitor. Land acquisition has seen the Council discover a multitude of requirements to get Cremer’s Meadow prepared for opening. We have also discovered that there are a multitude of responsibilities with the ongoing maintenance of the Countryside Park.

To summarize we own Land in Brundall as follows:

Church Fen

Cremer’s Meadow

Brundall Cucumber Lane Cemetery

Meadow View Play Area

We lease:

Brundall Countryside Park including the allotments, parkrun area and the woodland we created planting well over 1600 trees.

We have agreed to help maintain Low Wood Farm woodland in exchange for a permissive footpath being opened up although no formal agreement with NPS has ever been set out. The Neighbourhood Plan had an element of expenditure which was necessary at the end of the process to ensure success. Printing proved to be a big cost and two batches of 500 copies needed e.g. £1235.00. But with all such ventures, the rewards of the Plan will yield a greater amount of CIL with any new development which is approved by the higher authorities.

Our performance within the scope of the Budget Precept has been managed by careful thought and planning to ensure that our expenditure is kept within budget. Our other reserves are set as follows:

Allotments General Reserve	2,000.00
Church Fen General Reserve	9,230.00
General Reserve	1808.89
Lamp Post Renewal Reserve	19,206.41
Neighbourhood Plan Reserve	-876.75
Parish Plan Reserve	-285.00
Playground General Reserve	886.50
Total Ring-fenced funds Cemetery/MView	£ 16,586.24
Total Section 106 Reserve	£ 46,866.96

The total reserves including S106 reserves stand at £95243.25

The current account bank balance at year end was £2440.77

Broadland Deposit Account year end figure was£103909.63 including interest accrued.

The Neighbourhood Plan yielded a Yes vote and so the costs were comparatively minor considering the end result was inclusion into the Local Plan and a ground breaking entry into being able to have our own policies set in legislation.

We have managed to cover the parish with the facility of 2 types of traffic monitoring equipment whereby monitoring is taking place over 5 major roads notwithstanding the human element of the Community Speedwatch team.

We have also installed more LED street lights so that 2/3 of the lights the Council owns (i.e. 99 street lights) are now of an energy saving type, which means a saving for each resident’s contribution to the street lighting precept. It does feel satisfying to be able to provide residents with added value for the precept amount they were asked to pay of £98.80 per council taxpaying household.

The Budget vs. Actual shows an under spend of £13041.85. So what do we do with this under spend? As we do every year, as RFO my recommendation at the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be to vire £2000.00 for Cremer's Meadow budget category and to place the rest into our lampost fund (actual remaining to date is £4806.41). I would like for the council to consider updating with LED heads the remaining 60 lamposts from SOX. This in turn will further reduce our monthly street light electricity bill substantially and saving the environment also.

I am hoping that the Council can look to preserving the remaining ex gratia S106 funds of £46866.96 in the coming years because, for the existing land acquisitions, there are budget categories and set reserves sufficient to enable our Friends groups to operate without having to access this largest of reserve funds. As RFO and having been closely involved in the CDROB committee work to acquire land for recreation, my recommendation would be to resist any further use of this funding pot for anything other than our recreation project. I ask the Council to seek to preserve this fund so as to be able to realistically achieve the aims of the CDROB committee. I would like to ask the Council for their support in this regard.

Sharon Smyth. RFO and Clerk to Brundall Parish Council

Planning matters

Planning Applications

During the year, the Broads Authority and Broadland District Council consulted Brundall Parish Council on 42 planning applications. The volume of this work is similar to last year and I am very grateful for the inputs of Councillors Mickleburgh and Warns to this important work.

29 of these applications were in the Broadland DC area and comprised, in the main, adaptations and extensions to existing residential properties, plus 3 infill housing plots within the existing village envelope of Brundall.

Regarding business applications, permission was granted on appeal for change of use of the former Brundall Motor Company to retail use, Brooms were advised by Broadland DC that they did not need to do an environmental impact assessment of the proposed move of boat building operations to land on Yarmouth Road Blofield, the Honeycombe Dental Surgery was given permission to expand their premises on The Street and then subsequently for change of use to a dwelling. Gravers Accountants were given permission for change of use from residential to business at 2 Station Road, a former residential property.

The Parish Council was also consulted on a proposed Tree Preservation Order at 61 St Laurence Avenue.

In March the Parish Council submitted a planning application to Broadland DC for the change of use of Cremer's Meadow to recreational open space use. In this regard, the Parish Council is most grateful to Tim Strudwick for all his work on the flood risk and ecological assessments of the site for this important application.

There were 13 applications in the Broads Authority area of the Parish comprising a range of proposals – use of a boat store for display of marine equipment and small boats, a new mooring basin, adaptations and extensions to some of the existing chalets, installation of a summer house, change of use to a bistro and café, improvements to chalets, fascia signs at Brundall Gardens Marina, etc.

2. Planning Policy Matters

Following the submission of the draft planning policies for Broadland DC up to 2026, the planning inspector has appraised both the general policies relating to development proposals and has also recently completed her appraisal of the draft Site Allocations Development Plan. As regard the latter item, she has proposed a number of main modifications, all of which were proposed by Broadland DC, including a housing forecast trajectory, a commitment to review the plan starting in 2016, etc.

3. Brundall Parish Plan

Following the household survey of Brundall in December 2013 and the subsequent preparation of a report summarizing the findings of the survey the Parish Clerk and I are continuing to pursue, subject to our other activities associated with Parish Council work, the action points identified in the Plan.

4. East Broadland Infrastructure Plan

This project, which was led by Norfolk County Council's Environment Team, identified the need for a variety of green infrastructure projects in an area extending from Great Plumstead to Acle. Following stakeholder consultation meetings a list of over 50 projects has been drawn up.

15 of these projects have been selected to be included in an action plan in the short to medium term e.g. circular walking routes with links to cafes, pubs and restaurants, improved pedestrian links between Brundall and Blofield, links from The Pastures to Brundall Countryside Park and the River Yare, Cremer's' Meadow, etc.

Responsibility for this project has now been transferred to Broadland DC and the next stage is for the Greater Norwich Development Board to consider this plan and other similar plans relating to Norwich and South Norfolk, as a precursor to local implementation.

5. Brundall Neighbourhood Plan

The draft Neighbourhood Plan was the subject of a public enquiry by a planning inspector appointed by the Government.

The approved plan includes 6 specific policies about improving the pedestrian environment of The Street, walking and cycling routes, important views, enhanced recreation provision, enhanced provision for older people and enhanced pre-school provision.

On 11 March 2016, 29.5 % of the electorate in Brundall voted on the Plan and 92% of the voters supported the draft Neighbourhood Plan. This plan now becomes a material planning consideration and a starting point for working together to implement positive physical change in the village.

I S Walters
MA, MPhil, MRTPI

Report by the Chairman of Brundall Allotment Association

INTRODUCTION

The allotments have now been fully functioning for 18 months and most people are beginning their second growing season. Most of the Members of the Association are finding it a bit easier than last year when the whole site had to be dug.

The expectation that the site will be a “modern site” has been upheld by most allotment holders. Generally, the site is neat and tidy with well-maintained plots and pathways.

PLOT FACTS AND FIGURES MAY 2015 TO APRIL 2016

The site was laid out to accommodate the equivalent of 55 full-size plots.

It is currently partitioned for 30 full-size, 46 half-size, and 8 quarter-size plots.

During the year 12 plot holders have given up altogether

- 9 of those realised that they didn't have the time to devote to their plot.
- 3 left for health reasons or because they were moving away.

A further 3 have “downsized” (i.e. given up part of their plot so that they could cope better with a smaller size).

During the year there has been a tendency to split plots that have become vacant, to accommodate more plot holders.

There is currently a single quarter-size plot available, but 4 expressions of interest have recently been received, so that spare plot should shortly be let.

That will leave a genuine waiting list of 3; this will be the first time that we have had people waiting that we have not been able to accommodate almost straight away.

There has been interest from new residents of “The Pastures”, and there are now 4 plot holders who have moved into the village to live there.

Following the Parish Council decision to allow non-residents to take up plots, a plot has been taken by a resident of Postwick

EVENTS LAST YEAR

Blofield judged the “Plot they would most like to own” with prizes donated by Brundall Home and Hardware.

Quiz night and Barn Dance during the “off season”

Communal area created around the donated seat at the entrance to the site

Children's sunflower competition – again donated prizes

Christmas carols

Surplus vegetables donated to the Brundall Luncheon club

PLANS FOR FUTURE.

Continue to maintain the quality of the site.

Erect a larger site shed which will enable events to take place on site

Introduce a petanque court for informal games

Create a social picnic/BBQ area on site.

CONCLUSION

The BAA is extremely grateful to the PC for the initial provision of a high quality site. We are endeavouring to continue to try to create and maintain a site which is of the highest

standard. We believe the site is something of which Brundall can be very proud and which gives a great deal of pleasure, healthy living and community fulfillment to a great many people in the village.

Cllr Gill Buckley

Report by the Leader of Friends of Brundall Countryside Park

My name is Greg Chandler and I am the leader of the Friends of the Countryside Park. We are a small group of volunteers who work alongside the Parish Council assisting in the maintenance of the Countryside Park.

The park is very much in its infancy at present. Unlike Cremer's Meadow which has a full infrastructure of trees, grasses buildings etc, the Countryside Park has started life as a bare piece of land. Most people from their childhood think of a park as somewhere where there is neatly mowed grass, swings, roundabouts even possibly a paddling pool. However the Parish Council decided that this would be an area of natural habitat and growth. Some people would wish to call them weeds, but they are all plants in their own right, and are a habitat for many species of birds and insects. A recent survey by Land Management reported 126 different plants growing in the Park. There have also been reports of a rare weevil eating wasp, (harmless to humans I might add) and also three unusual species of bee. Farmers and householders are only too keen to use weed killers at present so I think it is a commendable step by the Council to keep the land in its present state. Apart from maintenance around the 1500 trees that have been planted, a policy of non-intervention has been agreed for this year. A group of the Friends planted two rows of hedging around the perimeter of the car park during the winter and I am pleased to report that all of the plants are now showing growth.

Apart from the increased use by birds and insects, there has been a marked rise in the use of the Park by human beings. One of my upstairs windows looks out over the park, and I have noticed far more use of the Park's facilities. Apart from the dog walkers, there have been individuals, couples and families out for a stroll, I have seen Mothers with pushchairs when it is not too wet, plus runners using the parkrun track for exercise. Talking of the parkrun, this is another very important use of the Park, I will not go any further on this as there is a report on it later on in the Agenda.

Another area which comes under the Friends jurisdiction is Low Farm Wood to the north of Postwick Lane. This is an area of woodland of approximately 3-4 acres which Norfolk County Council has granted footpath use through it. The footpaths have had considerable clearing work done on the by the Friends during last year, and although I cannot monitor how many people are using the paths, the fact that they appear well trodden seem to support their use. Again, Land Management has identified 109 different plants growing there plus many differing bushes and trees. They also comment on the trees providing good invertebrate habitat plus the undergrowth and scrub will also be widely used.

Rest assured that the Friends will continue to give their help where needed and I think the best way to sum this report up is "Watch this space".

Greg Chandler.

Leader of the Friends of Cremer's Meadow

See attached Powerpoint slideshow

Report from the Chairman of the Memorial Hall, Mr John Philp

BRUNDALL MEMORIAL HALL

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 303916

TRUSTEES REPORT May 2015 – April 2016

This has been another good year for the hall, bookings are up, to the extent that the booking secretary actually has to turn people wishing to hire the hall, away, this sometimes is mainly due to the fact that some potential hall hirers want days and time already occupied by other groups. It has been known for some time that the hall has insufficient meeting rooms, perhaps in future year's, this lack of rooms could be rectified by an additional building.

Financially the hall is "sound" even though there has been a decrease in the amounts of income from the bottle banks now that householders can use their own bins, the clothes and paper banks income remains stable.

The projects for the hall this year, apart from general maintenance, internal and external, has been to provide a new sound system in the hall including updating the induction loops in the lounge and hall. Also the renewal of main hall lights to more efficient energy saving lights, time lapse switches have been placed in the toilets, due to, on many occasions, the normal switch lights being left on overnight. A new handle has been placed on the disabled toilet door which conforms with DDA regulations, plus a new push down panic bar has been fitted to the fire doors east end of the hall, left hand side.

A door bell has been fitted to the entrance with receiver chimes apparatus placed in the hall and lounge, and for those groups who open the hall fire and/or patio doors during, hot weather conditions, gate fastenings have been fitted which secures the doors in their opening positions.

Projects envisaged in 2016 – 2017 includes the complete internal and external painting of the premises, renewal of wall heaters in the lounge, green room, toilets and trustees/council office to more efficient energy rated heaters. To provide a WI.FI. system and to review the wood fencing adjacent to the car park for a more durable maintenance free fence.

Garden maintenance and planting will continue over successive years.

Brundall Memorial Hall Trustees Management Committee have a excellent liaison and rapport with the Parish Council, we the trustees are aware of the extreme hard work that the parish council and its various working groups have done over the last years and what has been achieved for this community, and we also recognised the continuance of their hard work and endeavours in trying to achieve land for further recreational facilities purposes. The trustees are pleased and grateful that representatives from the hall are invited to be part of those working groups.

Thank You



John Philp

Chairman- for and on behalf of BMHTMCommittee

12 April 2016

Report by the parkrun co-coordinator

Brundall parkrun started almost one year ago and in that time over 800 different runners have joined us to run 5k on Saturday morning. When we started, it was our genuine hope that we would get 30 to 50 regular runners but since Christmas we have averaged well over 80 runners and exceeded 100 twice. It can only be a matter of time until we beat our inaugural run and welcome over 110 people to Brundall. The feedback we regularly receive is that we are an event with a strong sense of community and who are very welcoming, even if the course itself is quite challenging with lots of runners commenting how tough the hill on the eastern edge of the site is when you have to climb it four times.

As a team we are very proud to have played our part in continuing to develop and improve the countryside park and volunteers from parkrun have helped with spreading cinder and planting the hedge around the car park. We are also pleased to be able to support a small local business with the Daily Grind providing our post run cafe from their coffee truck. This is run by two local ladies, one of whom lives in Brundall itself and their presence is much appreciated by the runners and having them on site has definitely increased the number of people who stay around for a drink and a chat after running.

With the recent news of a Parish Council in the west of the UK voting to try and charge the local parkrun for using their park, a decision which if not reversed will effectively evict the parkrun from the site, I would like to say how grateful we are to have such a supportive and understanding council in Brundall.

Cllr Paul Taylor

Speedwatch Report by the Co-Coordinator, Stephen Rix

We have had another busy year and unfortunately still getting too many speeders. In October 2015 some major changes came into force, prior to October the speeders were 37 mph and over and we just recorded the vehicles travelling at 35/36 mph, but from October we had the same power as the police and we now record every vehicle 35 mph and above this has made it very busy. We only need 11 speeding vehicles in a month, then the enforcement officer will visit the following month, so we are keeping them busy as well as its quite easy to now get 11 speeders in one session let alone in a month.

Location	Visits	Speeder	35/36	Total
Station New Road	12	6	19	25
Cucumber Lane	12	29	30	59
Blofield Road	16	34	32	66
Postwick Lane	6	1	0	1
Strumpshaw/Bridge	1	2	8	10
	47			161
2014/15	37			162
2013/14	36			92

So this year although we have lost a team member we have still done an extra 10 visits plus there were 29 sessions cancelled due to one reason or another and got 1 less speeder than last year so that is a very small piece of good news. Our highest recorded speeder this year was 58 mph at Station New Road.

As you will all be aware Strumpshaw road is now virtually impossible to monitor due to the building works but we will still keep concentrating on the other sites. I do intend to try a session at the bridge this month just to see if it's feasible, although I can't see Station New Road see any more activity until after the work is complete.

Any Questions?

Brundall Speedwatch Coordinator.

Stephen Rix –Community Speedwatch

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