

Annual Parish Meeting 20 April 2026

Chairman's Report

The year under review has seen the Council make progress in preparation for further recreational opportunities at Brundall Village Park incorporating the Village Green and Country Park on land east of the Memorial Hall. The Council is currently reviewing tender submissions for the design stage of the project, so following several years of preparing for the Village Park, tangible progress is now being made.

The Council has also been undertaking a full review of its Neighbourhood Plan, which is a substantial but important piece of work. It is expected that the draft (reviewed) plan will be shared for public consultation this summer.

It is encouraging that reports at this Annual Parish Meeting from community organisations demonstrate the vibrancy of local facilities and community life in Brundall.

The Council has continued to deliver its 'business as usual' through the sub committee and working group structure and I am grateful for all the work that councillors, the clerks, co-opted members and Friends Groups put in as we regularly report at our council meetings. This includes the significant workload associated with managing our existing facilities at the Countryside Park, Church Fen, Cremer's Meadow, the Cemetery and the Sports Hub.

We have also continued our social media management during the course of the year which has created greater engagement with the community and local residents and working with Brundall Memorial Hall and Yare Valley Churches this now includes an established bi-monthly newsletter.

We are appreciative of the ongoing work and regular reports from our county and district councillors. We will be monitoring closely the local government review and creation of three unitary authorities in Norfolk, with Brundall planned to be part of a Greater Norwich Authority. With a single tier authority, we believe that the role of parish councils will be enhanced.

We have continued to raise concerns about the future of Springdale Care Home which closed in Autumn 2024. We note the decision in principle by Norfolk County Council to sell the site to a care provider and we will continue to campaign for the enhanced provision of care for older residents in Brundall, as set out as a policy in our Neighbourhood Plan

Road safety has continued to be a priority for the Council with a further successful parish partnership application to improve the entrance to Cremer's Meadow. The Council has continued to express concern about the number of road closures in the village with utility works and the disruption to residents, businesses and public transport. Whilst it is acknowledged that these works are necessary, co-ordination and the impact of regular closures in Brundall and surrounding villages need to be fully considered.

We are fortunate to have an established clerking team of Claudia, the parish clerk and RFO, and two deputy clerks, Rachel and Clare and thank them for their hard work as they continue to support the council to a high standard. We took the decision to move the parish office during the year to the premises of Graver's Accountants. We are grateful to Brundall Memorial Hall for accommodating the parish office for many years, but an assessment of need identified the requirement for alternative provision.

We have been fortunate to maintain stability with a full complement of twelve parish councillors during the year, welcoming Leslie Mogford as a new councillor.

As we move into a new business year, the Council's agenda remains busy not only to deliver our normal service but also to focus on priorities such as road safety and the further delivery of recreational projects particularly the development of Brundall Village Park. We are also on track to finalise the review of our Neighbourhood Plan during the forthcoming year. I am grateful for everyone who contributes to our mission.

Kevin Wilkins

Chairman

Brundall PC

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