

LYNG PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WEDNESDAY 8th MARCH 2017

Parish Clerk –

We are very pleased to have appointed Sarah Hunt as our new Parish Clerk and the Parish Councillors are looking forward to working with her, supporting each other and the village.

Vacancy for a parish councillor Breckland had been notified of two vacancies on the council. Two people had come forward to offer their services and an informal meeting was held to get to know the applicants.

Lyng & District Community Hall Update.

The Village Hall Committee were working towards the Stage 3 application for a Lottery Grant. The Parish Council wish the Village Hall Committee every success.

A Proposal to raise a Public Works Loan for the new village hall was received. A meeting was held with the Village Hall Committee to discuss their funding shortfall. There are several considerations to be made prior to agreeing whether a Public works Loan was appropriate.

Post Office Outreach –

The Fox has kindly accommodated the mobile Post Office in their car park on Mondays and Thursdays. Much persistence was required from the parish council to ensure a positive outcome to this project and so are delighted that, supported by local people, this much missed and needed service is in now place.

Local Businesses –

The Parish Council had sent a letter of congratulations to The Fox who were awarded winner of the EDP Norfolk Food and Drink Awards as Norfolk's Best Pub in 2016.

Some councillors visited the local Manor Adventure site, opened in May'16, to discuss planning conditions. Since then Manor Adventure has worked closely with residents.

An Open Day held at Manor Farm Stables raised £1,035 for the East Anglian Air Ambulance and The Big C. Sheila Bird was congratulated.

Highway Matters –

The NDR continues to be of concern to the Parish Council and the village as a whole. Members had attended a meeting with NCC in Nov'16 and Feb'17 regarding a possible link road to try to reduce traffic using the village as a shortcut between the A47 and A1067. It was reported that an action group had been started. The Parish Council requested regular updates from the group so information can be shared.

The costs and siting of SAM 2 flashing signs are under investigation.

Partnership Funding for improvements to the Wensum Way are being considered by the Highways department with a response expect in March'17. The Parish Council, in the interests of road safety, has applied for 50-50 match-funding.

In order to address concerns re. pedestrian safety on Heath Road, a log is being kept of reported traffic issues. The Council continue to encourage people to report e.g. near misses and speeding issues in order to build up a picture of incidences.

Councillors were pleased that the overgrown hedge which impeded visibility on Heath Road had been cut back.

The Council agreed that it is very much in favour of a Speedwatch scheme operating in Lyng.

Permissive Path. (Fairmeadow).

The Parish Council are delighted to announce that the Permissive Path was completed and opened for use in 2016. Special thanks must go to Charles Sayer for his support in realising this new asset for villagers.

Parish Trees –

In 2016 the Parish Council were pleased to have planted Acer ‘Elizabeth’ to commemorate the Queen’s 90th birthday. A planting ceremony was held and was attended by families who helped plant the tree. This tree will eventually replace the chestnut tree which has a disease and which is too large for the site it occupies. It was the Parish Council’s resolve to approach UK power networks to establish the possibility of relocating the power cables on the green as well as to annually review the future of the chestnut tree. Work on some of the parish trees will begin soon.

Policies and the Transparency Code for Smaller Councils –

Information continues to be posted on the Lyng-Norfolk.co.uk website.

<http://lyng-norfolk.co.uk> . Policies have been developed and reviewed including the Code of Conduct, Communications Procedure and the Complaints Procedure.

Planning Matters

Lyng Easthaugh Fishery (ex Redland Aggregates site). This application is currently in abeyance. The Lyng Easthaugh Action Group continues to monitor any future developments.

Grounds Maintenance Contract –

The standard of workmanship continues to be monitored and found to be in good order. Several people have commented on the good quality and pleasing appearance of the recently installed gates to the new burial ground.

Multi-Sports Area

2016 has seen a fall in bookings for football sessions, with Tuesdays and Thursday having no bookings since the beginning of the football season. We were also sorry to hear of the closure of Lyng Football Club. However, Breckland Sports For All have already asked for a booking in the Easter holidays and EATennis coaching continues on a Saturday morning.

Open Event.

In May’16 an Open Event was held for local businesses, authorities, groups, clubs and organisations to showcase their activities, advertise their services and to attract helpers and members. Councillors aided and endorsed this event with a view to supporting communication and cohesion in the village. The organisers were pleased that those who had attended found the event very helpful.

Planter on green near Victoria Cottage

A planter has been placed near the base of the tree to prevent drivers mounting the green and damaging roots. The Parish Council wrote to thank Mr Grantham.

Parish Council Notice Board.

The Parish Council Notice board has been removed from Lyng Stores outside wall and will be restored and re-erected when it has been renovated.

The Chair would like to thank Parish Councillors, and District Councillor Gordon Bambridge, for their hard work, expertise and patience, during the year, sometimes in challenging circumstances. The Chair also wishes Sarah Hunt, a happy and fulfilling time with us.