

Scarning Parish Council

Chairman's report 2014

First I must apologise for not being with you tonight but I am sure vice chairman Michael Steward will make an excellent substitute.

This year has seen several projects and ongoing matters reach satisfactory conclusions.

A footpath has been constructed from Chestnut Road to Cooper Terrace and thanks to our clerk Nick Hartley's well presented bid for funding Scarning parish Council only had to find the sum of £4,250.00.

In September 2013 the lease was finally signed for the Water Meadows area of the village some two years after it was first applied for. A final decision over the pond area at the entrance to the water meadows off Blackthorn Drive is still to be made. It turned out that this area had never been signed over to Breckland Councils authority and after some twenty years of neglect much remedial work needs to be done before we can consider taking this area over.

The complaint about the zip wire has ceased as the complainants have moved away. Whilst Seaming Parish Council were sympathetic to the complainants plight we felt that it was important to uphold the right of children to be able to play freely on a playing field designed for that purpose. Having sought legal advice and been assured that there were no laws against children making a noise whilst playing we felt it was important to stand our ground however, I think I can speak for all of us that we are very relieved that the case did not go to court.

One matter that has still not been concluded is getting 'Seaming' put back on the signposts on the A47. Although the Highways Agency has agreed to do this and the village name was on the previous sign it appears that all manner of surveys and research has to be done before it can go back.

Grants have been made to St Peter and St Paul Parish Church for grass cutting costs, to the -Playing Field Committee towards maintenance of the village playing field and to Scarning Conservation Volunteers for the purchase of tools and maintenance and running costs of the BCS reciprocating mower.

A Christmas tree was purchased for the village but as the PCC decided to cancel the proposed Christmas Tree Festival all the other lights and tree stands that the council had purchased last year were sold to the PCC at half the purchase price for them to use as they wish.

Unfortunately the proposed Annual Garden Show also had to be cancelled. A change in format from the previous year seemed to lead to some confusion about making entries and there was insufficient interest until the last minute by which time it was too late to go ahead.

Former councillor Reg Walton and Nick Hartley have been working together to produce a War Memorial booklet to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the start of the First World War.

Scarning parish council is also looking into the possibility of having a Defibrillator located somewhere in the village.

Charitable donations have been made to the Citizens Advice Bureau, Dereham Meeting Point, the Royal British Legion, Dereham Cancer Care, Big C, the Air Ambulance" East Anglian Children's Hospice, Vitalise and the Dereham Blind Club. These are all charities that serve the local area.

Finally I would like to thank all of the councillors for their support, Richard Allan for managing the village web site and of course our clerk Nick Hartley for his hard work, for managing to keep us in line and for his work producing the Parish Newsletter.

Wendy Brown
Chairman Scarning Parish Council
28-04-2014

Annual Report of Scarning Primary School to the Parish Council

Please accept my sincere apologies for being unable to attend tonight. Together with my senior management team I am visiting a school in Bedford for the next two days, in the relentless pursuit of raising standards!

Although we are still a relatively small primary school we do like to offer our children the best possible experiences during the 7 years they are with us. We like to go out on visits and enjoy having visitors in. Here are some of this year's highlights. 50 Year 4 & 5 children (and 5 staff) have just returned from a 3 day residential visit to the Kingswood Outdoor Activity Centre at West Runton. In July, our Year 6 children will be travelling to Derbyshire for their residential experience. They will be spending 4 days based at Hartington Hall Youth Hostel. All of the children from Year 2 upwards spent a day at the Imperial War Museum Duxford as part of their World War 2 studies. I could go on - the list is endless!

The Trust continues to offer outstanding support - providing funds for school initiatives that enable us to provide an even more engaging curriculum than would be otherwise possible. We meet with them on a regular basis.

Other noteworthy news:

- We have a new chair of governors - Mr Barber stepped down earlier this year and has been succeeded by Mr Robert Salter. Mr Salter has three children at the school
- We have even stronger links with the two Dereham high schools. There is a regular 'to-ing and fro-ing' of staff and students!

Barriers at both end of the school have been installed to help keep the children safe The school will take 47 children into Year R in September of this year. This will take us to 280 children

- There will be several new staff faces from September as the school continues to grow and senior staff look for promotion
- Evelyn and Doug have stepped into Ed's shoes and are doing an excellent job The staff are working incredibly hard
- We expect to be inspected sometime this term - something to look forward to!!

Best wishes to you all and thank you for your continual support.

County Coucillors Report - 28th April 2014

Thank you Chairman

-At its Budget setting meeting on 17th Feb ~ the County Council agreed a net revenue budget of £308.4m for 2014/15

-This includes a freeze in the proportion of council tax residents pay to the county council

-We still have to make tough choices in the face of an unprecedented £189m gap for the next three years, as a result of a further reduction in Government funding, coupled with rising costs and increasing demand for our services

-The fresh news from today's full council meeting is that the County Council is moving to a committee system of governance.

-This will entail the introduction of five new committees, all with executive decision making powers concerning their relevant policy areas

-While this represents a radical change in the governance structure of the County Council, it is unlikely to affect the services you receive

-Concerning the parish Scarning was amongst the first grouping of Parishes to be included in the roll out for the Better Broadband for Norfolk project last summer

-The NCC, Government and BT funded programme aims to make the highest levels of Superfast Broadband available (24m bps) where possible and where this is not achievable to make Basic Broadband available to remaining premises

-The expected coverage for the county by the end of the programme in 2015 is 83% Superfast coverage ~ regrettably this means that there will be areas where properties will only have access to speeds between 2mbps-24mbps.

-On Highways Maintenance

-As with all budgets the highways budget remains under pressure, however the highways team will continue to deliver repairs as their resources permits, but will seek to prioritise and programme the types of work and repair needed

-The parish council should be pleased to know there are a number of surface dressing sites in Scarning planned for this summer ~ including the spine roads of the Scarning estate as well as a few of the more rural roads in the parish

-Also, an order for pothole filling identified by the local highway inspector on various roads has recently been placed with our works contractor

-If you are aware of any potholes on the roads in need of repair, please do get in touch or report them on NCCs website

-And lastly and hopefully very timely

-The 20 mph speed limit signs for Scarning Primary School should be put in place by council contractors this week

-I say hopefully because it appears the posts for the signs have been put up, behind existing school signs, but the signs themselves have yet to be put in place

-Thank you very much for listening and I would be happy to take any questions

District Councillors Report

Many thanks for the agenda for the Annual Parish meeting unfortunately! am unable to attend, please accept my apologies.

I thought I would let you have some details of some of Breckland's Achievements for 2013/14

Breckland held Village games throughout last summer, of which 22 villages took part. Breckland Cricket Festival, there were 80 sessions which engaged 1360 participants and 11 schools receiving coaching sessions.

Big Switch and Save encouraged residents to join together, to use the power of collective purchasing to gain a cheaper energy price. The scheme has taken place twice with 4141 residents registering to take part. The scheme resulted in 69% of residents being able to save on average £110.65

The Book festival in March was well attended with 18 authors supporting it.

Festival on the Farm at Gressenhall Museum had over 2000 visitors and was a great success, the Gruffalo was extremely popular, I think he needed a lay down in the evening!! The next festival is on 26 July 2014

As you know Breckland offers grant funding: Match funding in 2013/14 was £59420.39 and Pride funding was £38606.39. There are monies available this year, so if you do have any projects, apply!

There were 24 community litter picks in 2013/14 - equipment is available to loan from the environment services department. Another 9 are already planned for this year.

Fly tipping enforcement: there were some successful prosecutions which totalled £3098 in fines, and we have some more pending.

Breckland set up a training services department - which can train businesses in various areas, and in its first year of trading attained an income of over £40K

Breckland has recently been awarded Member Charter Plus and is one of only a handful of councils across the country, who have achieved this. They have also been awarded a Bronze Investors in People award, to recognise the investment the Council has made in ensuring its employees have all the appropriate skill to perform their jobs to the highest standards.

The Contact Centre has been awarded the Customer Service Excellence accreditation for the extremely high standard of service that they provide to their residents.

Grants to Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) called Grants4Growth Thetford 4, Attleborough 1, Swaffham 1, Watton 1, Rural 11. The grant value paid out was £192,877.00 and Investment by the SME's £1870988.93 total jobs created 8

This grant will continue until March 2015.

Start-up Businesses - Enterprise Norfolk. Using this grant scheme, Breckland has successfully helped 30 businesses start up, Thetford, Dereham and Swaffham 4 each, Attleborough 5, Watton 2 and rural 11.

Finance: Breckland have repatriated over £3m from Icelandic banks in 2013/14

These funds were already included in current and past budgets and form part of the overall finance picture, they are not additional funds. Paid suppliers £28m, Banked over £150m income, and have a balanced budget for 2 years, Council Tax frozen for 2014/15 at £69.03 per year for a Band 0 property - still by far the lowest district council tax in the country.

Scarning PCC

Report to the Annual Parish Meeting - April 2014

This time last year we were embarking on our major fund raising campaign for urgent repairs to the church fabric and the replacement of the rainwater disposal and drainage systems.

English Heritage had offered to fund most of the work and we were originally asked to raise £24,500 towards the costs. We have been delighted by the support from the community and from other grant making bodies - resulting in a total raised in excess of £34,000. We wish to record our thanks to everyone who has helped and supported the many fund raising events over the last year - many of them involving food!

The original estimate from English Heritage for the actual building work was £109,500. We received the very unwelcome news in December that the lowest bid for the works was £161,000 - a daunting £52,000 more than the original figure.

English Heritage have since agreed to increase their contribution by £21,000. Our architect has, in discussion with English Heritage, pared back the project by about £12,000. We have made more applications to grant making bodies and await the outcome. At present we are around £14,000 short of the total needed for the works and professional fees.

Work will begin on the basis of what is affordable and we hope that other elements will be added if we receive good news from other grant making bodies.

In the meantime local fund raising continues. Our flower festival runs from 16th to 18th May with a preview event on Thursday 15th. The theme for the event is Inspiration.

Looking back at other aspects of the church's life over the past year. We are delighted that our congregations are steadily increasing. The team of bell ringers goes from strength to strength. On Wednesday this week there will be a confirmation service in church by the Bishop of Lynn for four members of the congregation.

We said farewell to our curate, Ed Thornley, who has moved to a rather different parish in London. Ed was closely involved with Oak Manor and Scarning School and other members of the Dereham team are hoping to continue this outreach work.

The church is grateful to the Village Hall Committee for funding the restoration of Dr Augustus Jessopp's memorial in the churchyard.

We are also grateful for the support from the parish council in terms of looking after the churchyard and the church clock.

We are planning a special service on the evening of Monday 4th August to commemorate the centenary of the beginning of the First World War. We will be sending invitations to members of the Parish Council in due course and we hope that this will be a fitting way for the village to mark the day and to remember those who are commemorated on our war memorial.

Scarning Village Hall and Estate Trust
Annual Report to Scarning Parish Council Annual General Meeting to be held on the 28th April 2014,

The Scarning Village Hall & Estate Trust is run as a Charity Registration number 1069370

The Trustees & Officers of Scarning Village Hall are pleased to note that the Hall is being used on a daily basis, providing a warm friendly and inviting venue for many activities for the benefit of the local inhabitants of Scarning and the surrounding district,

Regular Users of the Village Hall

Mondays (fortnightly)	Dereham Countrysider's	1.5hours (evening)
Tuesdays	Table Tennis Running group	2hours (daytime) 1 hour (evening)
Wednesdays	Art Group Dance Club (fortnightly)	3hours (daytime) 2hours (daytime)
Thursdays	Art Group Table Tennis TaiChi	3hours (daytime) 2hours (daytime) 1.5hours (evening)
Fridays	Music & Movement	3hours (daytime)

In addition, as well as parties and so on, the hall is used once a month by:-

The Poultry Club Monday	2.5hours (evening)
Parish Council Monday	2 hours (evening)
Women's Institute Wednesday	3hours (evening)

Norfolk Village Games Road show.

The Trustees are delighted to be involved in supporting the Norfolk Village Games Road show this is to be staged 2pm and 4 pm on Saturday the 11th of May 2014 in conjunction with the Scarning Parish Council, & The Scarning Playing field committee, the village hall will be venue to Table tennis coaching and Badminton, as well as providing other facilities for this community event, in partnership with Breckland Council and Norfolk County Council. To encourage and inspire our local community to try different Sports and keep fit activities to promote Health & Wellbeing.

Scarning Village Hall Cottages

Two of the Scarning Village Hall Cottages became vacant over the past year and the Trustees were very pleased to be able to let both of these to young couples that have very strong ties with Scarning Village, thus enabling them to remain living in their home Village.

Christmas Lighting 2013,

The Trustees were pleased to be able to decorate the Scarning Village Hall with White Icicle light's over the Christmas period again in 2013, the Trustees feel this really enhances the Village Hall and that end of the Village creating in conjunction with the Christmas tree in the Church yard (Provided by the Parish Council) appropriate lighting for the Christmas Season. We will be doing this again this Christmas.

The Re-instatement of the Memorial to the late Dr Augustus & Mary Jessopp, Scarning Churchyard.

The above Memorial to the Village Hall & Estate Benefactor was knocked down by a tree in a gale and broken, the Trustees have liaised with the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council and have instructed R. Payne & Son Monumental, Ecclesiastical and General Masons To: remove, clean and repair the Memorial Cross. Renovate the

existing lettering. Relay a new foundation slab and level, and rebuild the Memorial on site,

These works are now complete and the Memorial looks splendid in its refurbished state, the full cost of this work was paid for by the Scarning Village Hall and Estate Trust. It is proposed that there will be a rededication of the Memorial and there will be an open invitation to the Parish Council and members of the Public to attend the Service.

Report compiled on behalf of the Scarning Village Hall & Estate Trust By,
Alan Glister Chairman to the Trust 10-04-2014.