

Chairman's Report for 2016/17

I would like to open by welcoming 2 new members of the Parish Council: Mark Prior, and John Parry. The Parish Council is still short 2 members, one for Brome and one for Oakley, so if you would like to consider taking on this role please do talk to our Parish Clerk Sarah Foote.

On a sad note, I would like to note the passing of a former Parish Councillor - Lorraine Bates who died suddenly.

The Parish Council has faced many similar issues over the past year as in previous years. Funding nationally and locally has been reduced for many groups and services, with further reductions in funding to continue for the life of this parliament and the council's term. There is an ongoing bid for devolution of the Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire which I am sure Jessica, our County Councillor will give more details on.

There has been a rise in planning applications over the last year, many concerning the development of a local businesses. The Planning Inspectorate made a decision in favour of the Progress Power Station to be sited on Eye Airfield. However Progress Power did not secure a contract in the Government's recent Capacity Market Auction for future power generation (held in December 2015) and therefore the project will not proceed during the course of this year (2016).

The Brome Household Waste and Recycling Centre is currently closed for reorganisation, although it may be that our District Councillor David Burn may have some news on the site.

The Parish Council is in the process of buying a Vehicle Activated Speed (VAS) warning sign as a measure to manage the speed of the traffic that passes through our Village. After much time Suffolk County Council did inspect the sites, and approve

the places where this sign can be placed. The Parish Council will be purchasing the sign and siting it when it arrives.

Allotments are very popular in some areas of Suffolk however this Parish Council still has several unrented plots. After consulting the residents over the last year, the council is committed to creating a children's playground, which will utilize some of the unused allotment land. You can view the plans and the idea here tonight.

The Police Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore is up for re-election, so we can decide if he has fulfilled his promises and increased policing in this area. 2 years ago his promise was to increase police numbers in our county with a budget of £125m. The current police budget is £150m, with the hope of finding savings of £5.5m. This means there is to be a reduction in PCSO's and police, with the closure of many police stations.

To conclude I would like to express my thanks to Sarah Foote, our wonderful Parish Clerk for all her hard work and thank you to all the parish councillors for their hard work for the parish.