

FRANSHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of a meeting held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 18th May 2021 in the Village Hall.

The Chairman of the Parish Council was present, together with five parish councillors and the Clerk. There were no members of the public present.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Cllr Spratt for her hard work preparing the Hall in readiness for the meeting, particularly with regard to ensuring the meeting was Covid-safe.

Apologies were received from District & County Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris.

2. To accept the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 21st May 2019.

The minutes of the meeting held in 2019 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

3. To receive a report from the Chairman of the Parish Council.

The Chairman's report is attached.

4. To receive a report from the County Councillor.

The County Councillor's report is attached.

5. To receive a report from the District Councillor.

The District Councillor's report is attached.

6. To receive a report from the Church Representative.

The Church report is attached.

7. To receive a report from the Village Hall Committee.

The Village Hall Committee report is attached.

8. To receive a report from Fransham Women's Institute.

No report from the Women's Institute was received.

9. To receive a report from the Fransham in Relief Charity.

The Fransham in Relief Charity report is attached.

10. To receive a report from the Norfolk Constabulary.

The report from the Norfolk Constabulary is attached.

11. To receive a report from Necton Church of England Primary School.

No report from the Necton School was received.

12. Open Forum - an opportunity for residents of the parish to express their views on matters of interest or concern relating to the village and to suggest ideas for the future.

There were no members of the public present and no matters were raised.

13. To note the date of the next Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 17th May 2022.

The date of the next meeting was noted and, with all reports having been previously circulated and taken as read, the meeting closed at 6.34pm.

Fransham Parish Council – Chairman’s Report for 2020/21

Along with many other organisations the council have been restricted in what it can do since March 2020. This meant that we could not hold either the Parish Assembly or the council’s Annual Meeting last year, or any other face to face meetings. However a change of legislation by Central Government meant for the last 10 months we have been able to hold our bi-monthly meetings on Zoom and this has been reasonably successful. I’m pleased to say that the council has remained at full strength throughout the difficulties and our Clerk, Sheryl Irving, has played a key role in helping us to manage the situation and organising the online meetings. With Covid seemingly under control thanks to the vaccines we are now able to get back to the more normal face to face meeting, albeit with some precautions.

As many will have seen a major accident on the A47 demolished our new West bound bus shelter and we were back to the challenge of working with Highways England (HE) to get agreement for its replacement. Our insurers responded promptly, agreeing to cover the cost of replacement, but as we expected it took many months and much paperwork for HE to agree to the work being carried out. Once given it took just a couple of days to install the replacement. Exasperating but success in the end.

As an ongoing activity we continued to monitor and report highway issues including potholes, footpath clearance and any lighting failures etc. However Covid restrictions and furloughed staff meant that getting these attended to was understandably delayed. We had a couple of instances of HGVs becoming ‘stuck’ in Station Road when the drivers decided the road was too narrow to proceed and tried to turn round. We also had an abandoned recovery truck causing an obstruction for a number of weeks and these incidents resulted in damage to the grass landscaping, which we will try to get repaired.

Assessing planning applications continued to be an important task. We have seen an increasing number of these in recent years and 2020 was no different. In assessing their suitability we always try to protect the rural nature of the parish and try to guard against over development but our recommendations are not always accepted. However with the final adoption of the local plan and now a 5 year land supply we are hopeful that we will now receive greater support.

Engaging with the local community is important and the council uses various means to achieve this, and this year we have carried out a major upgrade of the Fransham website to make it more current and usable. I do hope people will take a look.

Finally, in closing, I must thank our hardworking clerk Sheryl, our vice chair Councillor Watts and my fellow councillors for their time and support in what has been a challenging year, and also our county/district councillor, Mark Kiddle Morris, for his ongoing support.

Russell James
Chairman

County Councillor for Necton & Launditch Annual Report 2020/21

The whole year has been dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic and the introduction of measures to prevent the spread of the virus. Virtual meetings have been the norm using either MS Teams or Zoom. In the whole year from April '20 to April '21 I have attended only 4 parish council meetings in person which were conducted with strict social distancing measures in place. No committee meetings of the County Council have been held other than by MS Teams during the year.

The majority of NCC staff (around 98%) and all members have been working from home for the entire year. All members of staff were allowed £250 to set up a home office and the laptops provided allowed phone calls to be made via the internet. Staff whose service were necessarily shot down such as libraries, catering, museums etc were redeployed to help with the delivery of the Covid response. Members were allocated a support role to vulnerable residents who were contacted by telephone.

In October 2019, the Council carried out an exercise to test the resilience of the Council to a major incident, all staff were told to work from home for the day to test the IT system and its ability to support remote working. This was mainly to try out the new IT software and hardware but proved to be fortuitous as by the time of the first lockdown any lessons from the exercise had been learned and the transition to working from home in March 2020 was seamless.

Governance: In May 2019, the Council moved from a committee system to an executive form of governance. The Cabinet (Executive) is responsible for the day-to-day decisions in the Council and is made up of the Leader of the Council and 9 other elected members.

The Cabinet is held to account by a Scrutiny Committee, which can review decisions that member wish to debate or question by “calling in” a Cabinet decision that has not yet been implemented. There are 3 Select Committees which were originally formed to recommend policy to Cabinet but recently have had their remit expanded to include a wider scrutiny role. The 3 Select Committees are the Corporate Select Committee, the People and Communities Select Committee and the Infrastructure and Development Select Committee. All committees are politically balanced (in proportion to the number of seats held by each party) with the Scrutiny Committee chaired by a member of the main opposition group. The following is a brief overview of the work of the Committees.

Scrutiny Committee: the events of the Covid 19 pandemic have brought into focus the important role that the Committee could have in supporting emergency and recovery planning in the Council, feeding into current and future planning regarding lessons learnt. In May 2020, the Committee considered a revised work programme identifying several areas of priority and focus within the Council relating to the pandemic.

Children’s Services – return to school; the response from Children’s Services has been far reaching and scrutiny has been focussed on the key challenges facing the service.

- Support for education settings
- Children's social care
- Children with special educational needs and disabilities
- School attendance and vulnerable children

Support for shielded and vulnerable people; this has been a key area of scrutiny for the Committee considering a wide range of areas such as:

- Social care
- Safeguarding
- Delivering essential support and supplies to those to those in need
- Hospital discharges
- Residential care

Norfolk Economy and support for businesses; the economy of Norfolk, as with the rest of the country, has been severely affected by the pandemic. The Committee focused on the immediate impact of the support offered by the Council and the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (NALEP) put in place to support the economy and local employment.

Councils' internal processes: The Committee considered the Councils own internal support processes particularly around IT support for staff working remotely and ensuring the Council maintained open and transparent decision making in virtual committee meetings.

Wider Scrutiny Activities:

Strategic and Financial Planning; the Committee has an important role in holding the executive to account especially in financial and strategic planning. The Committee has had regular updates throughout the year recognising that financial scrutiny needs to be ongoing rather than happening late in the budget setting process.

Early Childhood and Family Service (ECFS): in January 2019, the County Council decided to transform Norfolk's offer for families with children aged 0-5 with as significant amount of work undertaken to secure the new ECFS. The ECFS was launched in October 2019 and the Committee have monitored the impact of the new service and will continue to do so through its Children's Services Scrutiny Sub Committee.

Response to the December 2020 Flooding Event; in 2020 Norfolk was hit by a major flooding event in December. The Committee were keen to ensure that those residents who had suffered hardship were made aware of sources of support and information that was available to them. Investigation of the December flooding is still ongoing. A previous event in August was investigated and report issued. As a result of the 2 events causing widespread damage the Council have formed Norfolk Flood Alliance to coordinate the response of stakeholders to flooding events and to formulate measures to prevent further major occurrences.

Corporate Select Committee: The Committee usually meets 6 times a year but the meeting for May 2020 was missed due to pandemic restrictions.

Strategies and Policies: the Committee has the key role of developing and reviewing the Councils strategies and policies. The following major policies and strategies were shaped by the Committee during the year.

- **Norfolk Digital Strategy:** The strategy roadmap explains how the Council will continue to build on past and current successes to improve connectivity in Norfolk. The Council were awarded Connected Britain digital council of the Year 2020.
- **NCC Customer Experience Strategy 2021-26:** The Committee supported and shaped the strategy and on 15th March 2021 recommended the Strategy and a Customer Charter to Cabinet
- **NCC Performance Management Framework:** The Committee shaped the new framework which aligns Cabinet outcomes and departmental objectives with the corporate plan "Together, for Norfolk".
- **NCC Recruitment:** The Committee has agreed the key priorities for recruitment to Council posts including a targeted approach with campaigns, reaching out to underrepresented groups, reducing the time to hire and improving the internal recruitment process.
- **Review of the Councils Constitution:** The Committee has been overseeing a fundamental review of the Councils constitution including the Members Code of Conduct. The revised constitution was presented to Council in April '21.
- **The business and Smarter Working:** this programme was established to drive forward a range of plans and activities to modernise the Council, drive efficiencies and implement new ways of working making the best use of technology. Covid accelerated some of these changes with the roll-out of remote working to over 6000 staff by March 2020.

Infrastructure and Development Committee: the Select Committee contributed to the development of the following new and existing policies and strategies.

- **Enforcement Policy:** the enforcement policy has been developed into a framework for a number of services to ensure that when undertaking regulatory activities and law enforcement the work is carried out in an equitable and consistent manner across all departments.
- **Environmental Policy:** This policy set out sets out the areas that the Council sees as key to protecting and maintaining the health of Norfolk's distinctive environment and its occupants. One year after it was approved by Council the Committee reviewed the progress to date in delivering the objectives of the policy.
- **Local Flood Risk Strategy:** since this strategy was first written 5 years ago Norfolk has experienced some extreme weather events, there has been significant growth and development and the legislative landscape has changed. A review of the policy was carried out to ensure it remained consistent and relevant.

Additionally, the Committee a number of discussion and update papers were brought to the Committee including: -

- The Norfolk Economy
- Performance of key highway contracts
- Performance of the highway network
- Waste disposal
- Library and Information Service
- Rights of Way Improvement
- Budget planning
- Policy and Strategy Framework annual review

People and Communities Committee: The Select Committee played a role in the development and shaping of the following new strategies and policies: -

- Adult Social Services Winter Resilience Planning: The Committee supported the emerging winter planning by asking for focus on the work of unpaid carers, ensuring mechanisms were in place to accept feedback from frontline staff about lessons learnt during the first wave of the pandemic and raised concern around the testing of home carers.
- SEND Educational Needs Improvement Planning: The Committee provided oversight to the development of specific action planning following the inspection of services for children with Special Educational Needs in early 2020.

The Select Committee also reviewed the following existing strategy to ensure it remained fit for purpose:

- Children's Services Transformation Programme: The Committee commented on the specific new ways of working and changes of approach highlighted to help steer the direction of the work. This included particular focus on emerging proposals for support for children with disabilities.

To support the Select Committee in carrying out its activities, and to support all Select Committee Members with a good background of the relevant services a number of discussion and update papers were also brought to Committee, including: -

- Educational achievement of boys – Report
- Children and young people's mental health transformation
- Special educational needs performance framework report
- Quarterly children's services report
- Cares charter progress report
- Post 16 education
- Covid 19 experience in care homes

Your County Councillor: During the year I have continued to attend meetings of the 18 parish councils in my division of Necton and Launditch, although between March 2020 and this March I have only attended 4 in person parish council meetings the remainder being held virtually under the coronavirus regulations.

The absence of a highway engineer and other staff shortages in the local highways office over the winter severely hampered any but the most urgent highway defects being addressed. I am happy to say that the new engineer is doing a sterling job in reducing the backlog of work.

There were 2 major flooding events in the division one in August and the other in Christmas Eve. At my request both have been investigated by the Local Lead Flood Authority. The County Council has set up a Norfolk Flood Alliance chaired by Lord Dannatt. The priority will be to set up a single point of contact for the reporting of serious flooding events. The forum will coordinate the responses of the 36 flood risk management authorities in Norfolk.

Of the committees mentioned above I am member of the Infrastructure and Development Committee and have sat as a substitute on the Corporate Select Committee.

I am chairman of the Council's Standard Committee and have recently reviewed the members Code of Conduct and other parts of the Councils constitution relevant to members conduct. This will implement the recommendations from the Committee on Standards in Public Life and the new LGA model code of conduct.

I have also been elected to chair the Norfolk Community Safety Scrutiny Sub Panel which was set up to be a critical friend on the progress of the Community Safety Partnership Plan. The sub-committee meets regularly and reports directly to the main Scrutiny Committee.

Mark Kiddle-Morris

Member for Necton and Launditch

Norfolk County Council.

May 1st 2021

Breckland District Councillor for Launditch

Annual Report 2020/21

As you will be aware, 2020/21 was a year which was dominated by the international pandemic. It had an impact on people's lives around the world, including in Breckland.

Throughout the pandemic, ***Breckland Council's top priorities have been to protect the lives and livelihoods of its residents.***

I thought it might be useful to give you a rundown of the events of the past year month by month to highlight the hard work and the achievements whilst working under the restrictions imposed by the pandemic.

April 2020

- Following the start of the pandemic, Breckland Council had already distributed just over £16m in grant funding to local businesses. The money, which was provided by central government, helped support local businesses which may be particularly affected by the current lack of trade. Breckland wrote to more than 3,000 local businesses eligible for grants worth between £10k and £25k.
- Planning permission for up to 4,000 new homes on the edge of Attleborough was formally issued by Breckland Council after a £34m community investment agreement was reached with the developer. The money will fund the construction of new primary schools and invest in the existing Attleborough Academy. A new linear park, allotments, and open green spaces will be created, a community centre constructed, and contributions made to support indoor sport, libraries, and public transport provision in the town.

May 2020

- Breckland Council created an online roll of honour to thank local businesses, community groups and volunteers for the support they've shown in helping care for members of the district's communities.
- We announced a new grant award of £5000 for Norfolk Accident Rescue Service (NARS), which will help continue their vital work in supporting the emergency services and saving lives in the community.
- Norwich City and its football foundation boosted the local food supplies effort by donating 120 parcels to the council, containing essential non-perishable food items such as tinned goods and dried foods. The boxes also included hand sanitiser, toilet roll, sweet treats, a NCFC gift and a note from celebrity chef and Canaries shareholder Delia Smith.

June 2020

- The first 'virtual' committee meeting was held on Monday, June 1. The committee meeting was held via video-conference and streamed live to the council's YouTube page. The video feed enabled people to observe the meeting's debates and the decisions being made.
- In response to a rise in litter and fly tipping in the district, a number of case studies were shared via social media and local press. These included the "world's most expensive coffee break", where 3 staff littered coffee cups in the countryside resulting in a £240 fine. A fly tipping incident solved in just 3 hours resulted in a £300 fine, and £600 fine was issued to a

Thetford resident who dismantled a car in local woodland.

- As shops started to reopen after an initial lockdown period, Breckland launched the "Shop with Confidence" initiative, part of a much wider "Do Business with Confidence" campaign to support every business and every job possible during the Covid recovery phase.
- Breckland Council passed a significant milestone this month when it despatched its latest food parcels, which contained its 10,000th meal for vulnerable residents in the district.
- Two charities which offer support to people who have experienced domestic abuse in Breckland and Norfolk benefitted from a shared donation of over £3000. The Daisy Programme and Leeway Domestic Abuse Support Service received the funding after Breckland Council's Chairman selected them as her charity beneficiaries for 2019/20.
- Great news for birds and bees - In July we started to provide developers with planning advice and guidance which will help them create sustainable habitats for wildlife as part of its emerging approach to climate change and the environment. The advice will include the incorporation of bird boxes and bee or swift bricks into housing plans.
- Armed Forces Day - The council raised the flag at its offices to mark the occasion and called on residents in Breckland to take a selfie of them saluting and share it on social media using the hashtag #ArmedForcesDay2020 and #OurBreckland

July 2020

- Breckland Council and Solo Housing joined forces to deliver a joint new project to help rough sleepers across the district. The £40.5k 'Off the Street' project was funded by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government as part of the national Rough Sleeping Initiative. The project enabled Breckland Council and Solo Housing to provide temporary accommodation to people who were homeless or sleeping rough in Breckland, helping them into more settled accommodation.
- Environmental news - It was announced that the council will move away from its existing energy tariff and switch to a renewable energy tariff as part of its commitment to sustainability / tackling climate change.
- Also as part of our sustainability work, new steps were unveiled to create more bee-friendly habitats across the district. The council announced it would be leaving some verges and land to grow wild, or operate a 'cut less, cut later' approach, to help bees and other pollinators to thrive.
- Breckland Council's Silver Social Project announced a new series of arts events online, while physical venues were closed and social distancing guidance is in place. The new programme included acclaimed singing comedy sensations, the Opera Dudes, and creative writing and poetry sessions from Dan Simpson.

August 2020

- Breckland Council announced it would be providing new funding to enable the Daisy Programme to establish a community support team for residents vulnerable to domestic abuse. Consisting of an Early Help Community Lead and six or more volunteer Daisy Ambassadors, Breckland Domestic Abuse Community Support Team will help people affected by domestic abuse feel less vulnerable and help them rebuild their lives.

- A covid outbreak at Banham Poultry made local and national news. Breckland Council worked with Norfolk County Council and other partners to tackle the specific outbreak in the Breckland-based factory.
- A new housing policy enabled vulnerable and disabled people to access new funding and support to meet their bespoke housing needs. The revised Housing Assistance Policy saw funding ring-fenced to help disabled residents to live more independently in their own homes and improve housing conditions for vulnerable residents. The previous policy already offered grants of up to £30,000 per household to help pay for adaptations, but the newly revised policy will now include the option for owner-occupiers to take a loan of £10,000 if disabled adaptations cost more than the initial £30,000 grant.
- A new business grant in Breckland was launched to help businesses to continue safely trading despite Covid-19. The fund was available to local businesses in the tourism and hospitality sectors and could see them receive up to £5,000 to help put in place safety measures and invest in ways to keep trading successfully over the winter months.

September 2020

- Swaffham received 700k towards the protection and enhancement of its historic high street and surrounding areas, with £380,000 of this total from Historic England funding. We're working with partners to highlight and protect this historic high street.
- We worked with Dereham Town FC and the Daisy Programme to raise awareness of local support services and start conversations about domestic abuse. This forms part of the Inspiring Communities programme which focuses on the prevention of domestic abuse. The football club adopted the Daisy Programme as its shirt sponsor to help highlight this service.

October 2020

- Breckland Council picked up an RSPCA award for the fifth year in a row, this time scooping the Gold Award status in the Stray Dog category. This is part of the ongoing commitment to protecting animal welfare. We've since invested in a new animal welfare officer to carry out inspections and ensure local businesses meet animal welfare standards.
- Breckland Council's Our Breckland Lottery hit a major milestone this month, with £100,000 for local good causes through online lottery ticket sales.

November 2020

- The Council rolled out the Local Restrictions Support Grant scheme and started to distribute further grants to Breckland businesses to help them through the pandemic.
- A new community shop, The Burrell Shop, launched in Thetford to ensure good quality, affordable food is available to people living close by. It was supported by Breckland Council and one of the ways we are helping our residents who are most in-need of support.

December 2020

- In the run up to Christmas – normally peak shopping time – we urged shoppers to spend money with local traders as part of our new 'Enjoy. Discover. Explore' campaign. This is one way we have protected livelihoods during the pandemic. We've since launched our Spring Back campaign to help businesses thrive following a difficult period during the height of the pandemic.

January 2021

- Urban regeneration expert, Hemingway Design, was appointed to help shape Thetford's future. Public consultation followed which saw strong engagement with local people helping to shape the future of the town.
- Breckland Council agreed to sell the Green Britain Centre in Swaffham to an expanding international business. This will bring a new business and more jobs to the town. More information about this is expected to be released publicly soon.
- We helped Dereham's Mid Norfolk Foodbank secure a new storage unit after releasing funding worth £2,500.
- The Digital Breckland programme launched to help businesses get set up online. The initiative provided training and advice to help businesses receive online orders, take digital payment, and get future-ready for an evolving high street.

February 2021

- Breckland Council launched 'MyFuture: Social' programme of events for young carers. Virtual events were organised to support carers in our area, offer them skills advice and employment opportunities, as well as a chance to socialise with peers and develop a support network.
- Breckland Council members voted to adopt a balanced budget for 21/22, which protects frontline services and invests in key areas – such as climate change, flytipping, and animal welfare.
- Breckland Bridge – the partnership between Breckland Council and developer The Land Group – completed a set of new homes Chantry Court in Attleborough. The scheme is helping to meet the rising demand for housing in the district.

March 2021

- Building work starts at Elm Road, in Thetford, to create a new unit for people in need of temporary accommodation. Work is expected to be completed on the scheme around the end of this year.
- Members voted to bring South Holland and Breckland's partnership to end after more than a decade sharing a management team. The partnership was a big success, but a changing landscape, including local government reorganisation proposals, meant both councils opted to bring the partnership to a close and consider more local (within the same county) new partnerships.
- To help break the chains of transmission, an asymptomatic testing programme was rolled out in Breckland. This meant anybody without covid symptoms could access a free test to make sure they didn't have coronavirus without knowing it and spreading it.
- A brand-new waste contract launched in Breckland, after the joined commissioning work in partnership with councils in west and north Norfolk. The move saved taxpayers money by cutting procurement costs while securing 'best value' service. Working together also brings benefits to service delivery, as cross-boundary working means vehicles, staff and other assets can be shared so the teams can work more effectively across multiple areas. During the first year of the contract, investment will also be made into shared IT systems, so real-

time service information is available to residents and it is made easier for people to book additional services online, such as garden waste collections. The contract has also seen a brand-new fleet of bin collection trucks and other vehicles rolled out, which will operate across all three council areas. These include reduced emissions and hybrid vehicles. We can also now offer a commercial waste service for the first time and this has got off to a great start. We've already issued around 200 quotes to prospective clients and have over 40 customers signed up to receive commercial bin collections from the council.

- 'Spring Back' grants and support to help Breckland businesses reopen their doors. The new scheme includes:
 - A Shop Front Improvement Scheme, which makes funding available to businesses wanting to make improvements and enhancements to their shop frontage - from a lick of paint through to a completely replaced front.
 - Covid Safe and Adaptions Grants worth up to £5k to help businesses invest in equipment which enables them to trade safely, from extra protective equipment and screens, to a marquee or outdoor seating to support social distancing.
 - Any Breckland-based business will be able to have an assessment of their digital offer, with money available to help them trade digitally. The Digital Breckland project will support new payment systems through to online advertising.
 - A streamlined pavement licence application process to help support businesses create outdoor seating areas, where appropriate, and encourage social distancing and covid-safe practices. This is in addition to online training and support being available from the council's Licensing and Public Protection teams.
 - For prospective businesses, Breckland Council is offering an Expanded enterprise and start-up scheme, providing funding and advice for people looking to launch their new business in the district. An earlier iteration of the scheme has already helped 10 innovative businesses get off the ground in the first few months of 2021 and the council hopes to help dozens more over the coming months.

- People living in Breckland can now contact the district council via video call, as the council expands its customer services offering. We launched the video call appointments system to make it as easy as possible for people to get in touch with the council, building on existing methods of contact including phone calls, email, web chat and online forms. It comes off the back of a rise in popularity in video calls during the pandemic and means residents will be able to speak virtually face to face with one of the council's Customer Services officers. Appointments will take place from the comfort of a resident's home via the video conferencing service, Microsoft Teams. Calls require access to a smartphone, laptop or a tablet and a stable internet connection.

I hope the above is of some interest, it does highlight the diverse nature of the work carried out by Breckland Council, and all for the lowest district council tax in England. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Mark Kiddle-Morris,

Member for Launditch Ward. (Beeston with Bittering, Fransham, Great Dunham, Kempstone, Lexham, Litcham, Newton by Castle Acre, Rougham)

Church Report 2020

With the Covid 19 Pandemic and the changing restrictions it has been a tricky year for the Churches. All the Church services had to be cancelled and were replaced by Zoom meetings and worship online. But both Great and Little Fransham Churches have remained open.

Our fundraising activities have had to be put on hold until we are allowed to gather in larger groups indoors. Therefore the Fransham Parochial Church Council are very thankful to the Parish Council for their support with the cutting of the churchyards and the neatness and tranquillity of them has been appreciated during these difficult times.

All our Church services are in the Parish Magazine, copies of which are available from the Willgrass Farm Shop and in both churches in the village and on the Upper Nar website. Our group of parishes are due to advertise for a new Team Rector as Heather Butcher retired in November.

The maintenance and upkeep of the churches is always ongoing, but this year has the added problem of reduced finances available. Generally the fabric of both church's is in reasonable sound condition.

We look forward to welcoming our parishioners back to a more normal year.

Fransham Village Hall Report – 2021

Fransham Village Hall has had a very quiet year due to Co-vid. We were very lucky to obtain a Co-vid grant, which will go to help sort out the damp and hall maintenance.

The Village Hall has mainly been closed through Co-vid.

Farmyard Fit has resumed Keep Fit Classes on the Village Hall field and will go back into the hall when permitted.

This year, we hope to resume Bingo, Quiz and chip evenings. The Harvest Supper and a Christmas event to raise much needed funds for the hall.

Fransham Trustees

The Fransham Relief in Need Charity distributed 15 grants to beneficiaries within the parishes of Great and Little Fransham.

Norfolk Constabulary Report

10th May 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your invitation for me to join you at the Fransham Annual Parish Meeting on 18th May. Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend as I am on leave on that date. I can, however, offer the below as a short report from Norfolk Constabulary and would be grateful if this could be referred to on my behalf.

It has been a very difficult year for individuals, businesses and community groups alike and the effect of the pandemic and the associated restrictions have impacted on how we have policed our towns and villages.

Throughout 2020 your local Safer Neighbourhood Team Beat Managers have continued to respond to priority calls as well as conducting reassurance patrols, utilising the “4Es” approach to policing; seeking to engage, explain, educate and only as a very last resort enforce the restrictions in place at the time.

Despite not being able to conduct traditional, face to face meetings, your Beat Managers have continued to work in partnership with Dereham Town Council and Breckland District Council. We have been conducting our Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel (SNAP) priority setting meetings online via Teams and our next SNAP meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th August at 7pm. For more information on how to join the meeting please email the Beat Managers at SNTDereham@norfolk.police.uk. We really hope you can join us!

Your local Beat Managers have always enjoyed a very close working relationship with the community and we are very aware that the restrictions have meant that we have been unable to conduct face to face engagement. With the publication of the Government’s “road map out of lockdown” and an easing of the restrictions, as long as the situation continues to improve, we look forward to resuming face to face meetings if we can but only if it is safe to do so. In the meantime, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Fransham Parish Council, local community and businesses for their understanding and support during what has been undoubtedly a very difficult year.

Very kind regards

Paula Gilluley, Breckland Community Engagement Officer

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