

Parish Council update Newsletter - May 2023



Hopefully, we have now passed the cold and wet of this spring and that we can look forward to a good summer! In this edition is a brief update of news, our local projects and other information about our parish.

Annual Parish Meeting This will take place at 19.00 on Wednesday 24 May in our Community Hall. Everyone is welcome to come along and hear about what the Council has been doing on your behalf during the last year – some of which is reflected in this newsletter. There will be reports from the Chairman and the Clerk, as well as Colby Primary School, and the local Police beat officer. A copy of the agenda is posted on the PC website.

Parish Council membership After 8 years on the Council (7 as Chairman), Jeff van Poortvliet has decided to step down. Jeff has overseen a real change of gear in local matters including the hall renovation, Playing Field and Village Green planting and development and has left the Council in a financially healthy state. Stuart Clarke who was tireless in his work on many of these projects has also stepped down. We thank both of these people who have done much for our local community – they will be missed!

Richard Anderson-Dungar has been elected as the new Chair of the PC and Penny Ashby is the new Vice Chair. All other current members were reappointed. The Council is therefore short of Councillors at present – so if you would like to get involved in working to make our Parish a better place, please do contact the clerk, Colin Studholme, who can explain what the role is – contact at clerk@colby-banningham-pc.gov.uk.

Speed of traffic You may recall that the Council was told of a number of cases where speeding traffic have caused dangerous situations on Colby Long Road, on the B1145 near to Mill Road and in Banningham. Following extensive discussions with Highways staff of the County Council, we now have got the go ahead to utilise a Speed Awareness Monitor (SAM). This has been purchased by the Council following a grant obtained from Saul Penfold, our local County Councillor and will be shared with Suffield PC on an 8 week rotation. We hope this will help to reduce the risk of accidents in our Parish.

Highways The County Council has a website where anyone can report problems – you can also receive updates of progress to sort out issues. This can involve potholes, paths, street signs, fallen trees and flooding / drainage. The website address is <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads/report-a-problem> . Please do report problems so that they can be resolved for the community.

Playing Field The new trees on the Playing Field on Bridge Road are growing up; the new car parking and picnic benches are being used. Shortly a new sign will be put up which calls the area "Elden's Retreat", which was the wish of the family that donated the land for community use.

Dogs We have received some comments about dog waste in the parish. May we please remind dog owners to ensure that any waste in public areas is collected and properly disposed of – this will ensure our parish remains a lovely area and removes the risk of contamination and infection.

Affordable Housing Following the open meetings with NNDC and Broadland Housing Association in September and a "Call for Sites" letter, there has been no news of any further progress except that they are actively seeking alternative sites and will be providing a further update to us

Defibrillator The community defibrillator at the Crown in Banningham has now been repaired and resited on the back wall of the restaurant next to the entrance to the car park opposite the village green. Instructions for access are printed on the cabinet.

Community Hall There is more great news – our bid to the Norfolk County Council's Social Infrastructure Fund has been successful. We can therefore receive a further £39,000. This will allow us to proceed with completing the renovation phase 2 of the project which is the former Sandy Lane Club and some updating of the exterior of the building. When all of this is finished, we will have a smart and up to date, fairly large community space which is available for hire and use at very reasonable rates, especially for local residents. In the meantime, work has continued to complete the renovations of phase 1 – the old Jubilee Hall side – including installing a new fire alarm system and purchasing new equipment for the kitchen area. A new and very smart notice board has now arrived and will be put up shortly.

Now that the hall is ready for use, please do tell anyone or any organisation looking for a venue for an event or meeting. For more information, please call David Holgate on 07860 498729 or check the website for booking information - <https://www.banninghamcommunityhall.co.uk>

The application to the Charity Commission, as explained in previous newsletters, has been submitted. The new Management Team for the community Hall is now leading the development work as well as organising the day to day running of the hall. We are now looking for someone to work with the Team to market / advertise the hall facilities so that we can maximise its use. This will involve promotion in the wider North Norfolk area, social media posting and website updating. If you might be able to help in any way, please do talk to us - clerk@colby-banningham-pc.gov.uk.