

Dear Residents

A short newsletter to remind you of the Annual Parish Meeting next week, following the change of date to **Wednesday 25 May**.

1. Parish Council Clerk

As you know, Mo Anderson-Dungar, our valuable clerk for almost 27 years is to retire on 31 May. The Parish Council is pleased to announce that Kristine Ceirane. has now been appointed as the successor and we look forward to welcoming her. The point of contact for any parish business will remain via email to :

clerk@colby-banningham-pc.gov.uk .

2. Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place in the Banningham and Colby Community Hall (the new name for the village hall) on Wednesday 25th May commencing at 19.00. This is YOUR meeting so come and hear about the progress made during the previous year and see some of the improvements which are now taking place in the hall. Refreshments will be available beforehand. The agenda is below:

1. Welcome by the Chairman, Mr. Jeff van Poortvliet
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 5 May 2021
4. Matters Arising
5. To note the following Reports:
 - Neech Loan Fund
 - Colby School
 - Clerk’s Report
6. To receive the Chairman’s Report on the work of the Council during the past year
7. Any Questions and/or Items for the Parish Council to discuss at future meetings
8. The Village Hall – Update and Future Plans

.....

3. Village Hall

Things are really happening now – you may have seen scaffolding around the building. As always, we are extremely grateful to all the parishioners who have given time, energy, and expertise to our project.

- The roof of the old Reading Room part of the hall has now been renovated
- New doors and windows are installed; double doors at the back will need a new lintel
- Wi-Fi has been upgraded
- Quotes have been accepted for lighting and electrical work
- Improvements to the bar area are underway
- A new storage area at the rear of the annex has been created
- Work on the suspended ceiling is being planned.
- A new website has been developed and is almost ready.
- New signs and noticeboards for the Hall are being purchased.
- Donations, financial and in kind, have been received from the former Colby & Banningham WI, the Green Fingers Garden Club and from the former Sandy Lane Club funds – these will improve the hall and its use – so thank you to those groups.
- The project work has benefitted enormously from the £43000 already raised from external funders (which we are very grateful for). We estimate around £20000 may still be needed to complete all of the renovation work planned and the Parish Council has asked that this be provided from the existing monies held in the village hall accounts

The Parish Council working with members of the former Management Committee to ensure there are sound and sustainable arrangements for managing our renovated hall in the future. We have also engaged the help of Community Action Norfolk (CAN) – a charity which specialises in supporting communities with issues like ours.

What has emerged from careful analysis of the history is that the hall facility was originally given to the community for charitable purposes. Given that fact, CAN have recommended that the best course of action is to register it as a charity. An application is therefore being developed, with the Parish Council as the sole trustee – this will be nearest to the previous arrangements but will be safer for the community in the long term. A new structure for organising the future day to day bookings and management of the hall is being developed at the same time.

We look forward to seeing you!

.....