

Wreningham Parish Council  
Annual Parish Meeting 2013  
Chair's Report

This is my third report as the chair of Wreningham Parish Council to the Annual Parish Meeting. I'd like to begin by thanking both my fellow councillors for their work during the year and Heidi Frary, our Parish Clerk, for her diligence and support.

My thanks and appreciation also go to all those who volunteer their imagination, time and energy in so many different ways. They contribute so much to the health of our community. Today's agenda lists all of the groups in Wreningham.

I have picked out a few highlights from the past year. For more detail please see the published minutes available to download from the web-site or upon request from the Clerk.

#### Parish Council

In 2012-13 session we had six councillors: Sheldon Durant, Donald Whiterod, Lizzie Brake, Gill Page, Jon Moon and myself. There are three standing invitations for particular reports – from the County and District Councillors and our local area police team. Our Council meetings are scheduled every two months with the agenda posted on the notice boards and the web-site. Additional meetings are held as required to respond to short deadline requirements. The draft minutes are available on the web-site as soon as possible after each meeting to afford parishioners the opportunity to suggest items for the next agenda and to comment on the minutes.

#### Parish Finance

Our accounts are audited annually and are available for inspection upon request to the Clerk. For 2013-14 we voted for a slight increase in the precept to cover known and anticipated extra costs as tasks and services once assumed to be provided by Norfolk and South Norfolk Councils are reduced to meet financial constraints. Also, each PC is expected to take on additional expenses through safety surveys and tree surveys.

We continue to support particular village activities. E.g.:

- Queen's Diamond Jubilee committee – small grant to support various activities
- Playing Field Group – banking facility; larger grant from voted funds
- The Mardle – contribution towards publishing expenses

#### Parish Maintenance

We have renovated the bus shelter on B1113 near Top Row. It had become quite dilapidated and overgrown. The hedge along the playing field has been trimmed back. Both bus shelters are inspected and cleaned on an ad hoc basis.

The playing field needs mowing, treating, hedging, pest management and marking out for games. Under a new contract with a different provider we are exploring a "groundsman" approach to playing field and Reading Room management which we hope will provide us with greater flexibility to improve them for parishioners' use and enjoyment.

The village sign is in poor condition and we have let a contract to repair the upper half and stabilise the remainder. This work will be done in Spring/Summer.

This has been a very wet twelve months and we have several ditches and drains are partly or wholly blocked resulting in localised flooding around the village. Landowners are reminded that they have a responsibility to maintain ditches in and around their land.

#### Planning Applications

Planning applications continue to be received at a steady rate. A small volunteer group of parishioners previews the applications for us. One or more of this group visit the applicant and talk to neighbours to understand the application and to gather views. They report on their findings at the next formal Council meeting. This input to the appropriate agenda item is very helpful to our deliberations. Applicants are welcome to attend our meetings.

#### Local Development Framework

As an LDF service village, Wreningham is scheduled to grow by 10 - 20 houses between 2013 and 2026; South Norfolk Council has identified a plot on Church Road for up to 10 houses (3 of which are currently required to be "affordable"). SNC are advising that they expect the Planning Inspector (once appointed) to deliver their report by end of 2013 with potential approval for planning application likely by March/April 2014.

#### Highway Rangers

The NCC's Highway Rangers visits the village on a 13 week cycle and performs certain tasks to maintain the public infrastructure. I coordinate requests on behalf of the village. Thus we have had work undertaken within the village which included gulleys cleared, road signs cleaned and restored, verges seeded, drains cleared, roadsides tidied, etc.

Not all of the requests from councillors and parishioners fit within their brief – some fall naturally to the Parish Council, volunteers and residents. The Rangers pass larger tasks to their colleagues in the Highway department for them to consider. Latterly this resulted in the repair of some road surfaces in Top Row and Church Road and renewal of road markings at road junctions.

#### Looking Forward

Some anticipated activities to be sponsored by the Parish Council in 2013-14:

- Local plan development – to replace the Parish Plan
- Emergency Planning – an initiative from SNC and NCC to manage personal and community resilience in the face of emergencies
- Further development of the Playing Field
- Village Hall Management Committee's Moisture Control Project.

Michael Hill  
Chair  
Wreningham Parish Council  
14 May 2013