



# **Wreningham Parish Council**

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## **Annual Parish Meeting, 2012**

### **Chair's Report**

In my second 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 support during the past year and Heidi Frary, our Parish Clerk, for her diligence and her work in keeping me in line.

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

#### **Parish Council**

The Parish Council comprises six councillors: Sheldon Durant – Vice Chair, Donald Whiterod, Barry Jarvis, Lizzie Brake, Gill Page and myself. Our Council meetings are scheduled every two months and you are all invited to attend. There are three standing invitations for particular reports – from the County and District Councillors and our local area police team. The Council has also scheduled additional meetings to enable us to respond to short deadline planning applications.

I try to ensure we maintain effective communications using the Wreningham website, the parish noticeboards and the Mardle. The draft minutes are published 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. If any parishioners wish to go further back in time, I have arranged for all the Wreningham Parish Council minutes (1894-2011), accounts and other papers to be lodged with the Norfolk Records Office and the reference is ACC 2011/231.

#### **Parish Finance**

For a small parish, we have a reasonably healthy bank balance and we voted to maintain the precept at the same level as previous years. However, this may not be the case next year as we gain further insight into the changes being implemented by National and Local Government. Quite simply, we may need to undertake tasks and services once assumed to be provided by Norfolk and South Norfolk Councils – otherwise they will not be done. If this comes to pass I will rely heavily on your advice as to how we prioritise our spending in future.

Shortly after becoming the chair I realised that we had significantly more money in the bank than we receive in each half-yearly precept payment from South Norfolk. Therefore the Clerk and I invited Wreningham groups to apply for a small sum of money which they could use to improve the services they offer to our parishioners. The Council considered these and awarded several sums. I hope that the representatives here will let you know how much they received and what they used it for.

### **Planning Applications**

Planning applications continue to be received at a steady rate. We have a small volunteer group of parishioners which 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 then report on their findings at the next formal Council meeting. This input to the appropriate agenda item is very helpful to our deliberations. We always welcome the applicants to attend our meetings.

### **Local Development Framework**

Wreningham is scheduled to grow by 10-20 houses between 2013 and 2026 according to South Norfolk Council. The LDF has identified some 15 plots of land around the parish some of which may be selected to enable this growth to occur. We did our best to make parishioners aware of this potential for development and recommended that they ensure their views were put to the SNC planners. Indeed, one planner commented to me that Wreningham was particularly visible during their consultation – well done everyone!

The Parish Council drew heavily on parishioners' statements and on the Parish Plan to prepare a response to South Norfolk Council which presented a whole village perspective. Essentially we pointed out that the natural growth of the village (based on recent history) will ensure that we hit the LDF target without additional building being imposed. SNC are now considering the responses and will present their preferred lot(s) in June 2012 when another round of consultation will take place.

### **Highway Rangers**

The Highway Rangers are a Norfolk CC team which undertakes minor works in the area. The Rangers visit the village on a 13 week cycle and will perform certain tasks to maintain the public infrastructure. I coordinate requests on behalf of the village. Not all of the requests for action from councillors and parishioners fit within their brief – some fall naturally to the Parish Council, volunteers and residents. Thus we have had work undertaken within the village which included gulleys cleared, road signs repaired and restored, verges seeded, drains cleared, roadsides tidied, etc.

The Rangers pass the larger tasks to their colleagues in the Highway department for them to consider. Latterly this resulted in the closure of Mill Lane in order that a dangerous camber could be repaired. This Spring should see some other tasks

undertaken e.g. repair of some road surfaces in Top Row and renewal of road markings at junctions and at the school.

### **Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations**

You will all be aware that 2012 is the year of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. A group of parishioners is coordinating the Wreningham celebrations and has done a great deal of work. One of their fund raising efforts has been to introduce the two 100 Clubs. Several parishioners have benefited from their membership of these as their winning tickets had been drawn at a Last Wednesday Coffee Morning in the village hall. Please note the 4<sup>th</sup> June in your diaries and come along on the day with your family and friends to enjoy the planned activities. Better still if you can help out in any way, please contact the group leaders – Ian Dobson and Jean Lambourne.

### **Lotus Group plc.**

Some parishioners have commented that the track noise from Lotus in Hethel has impacted on their lives particularly during last Summer (and at other times). South Norfolk Council, several neighbouring Parishes and a number of parishioners recently met at the Lotus' Hethel site to discuss this with Lotus representatives. I have placed material on our website regarding these discussions. Lotus are interested in hearing from you so that they can improve their understanding of how the local community is affected by noise from the use of their track. Please see the contact details on the website.

### **Finally**

I could go on for much longer – it probably seems like I have already! We will now hear from the various groups in the parish.

Thank you.

Michael Hill  
Chair  
Wreningham Parish Council

13 March 2012