

Nordelph Parish Council

Chairman's Report 2016
Written by Danielle Gott
10.4.2016

Good evening and welcome to Nordelph Parish Council's Annual Parish Assembly.

Thank you for your attendance and I will endeavor as Chairman of the Parish Council to report on our activities in 2015/16.

Firstly, a quick summary of the **Parish Council members** for the year. In April, not long after our last AGM, we said goodbye to Dick Bailey and Barry Bushnell who were retiring after many years as dedicated councillors: we have missed their presence and input through the year. Kevin Free and Matthew Hoy joined Dick Balls, Geoff Cousins, Ron Stannard and myself to make a council of 6. I was elected as Chairman and Dick Balls as Vice Chairman. We still carry three vacancies. Collectively we have endeavored to represent the views of the parish and conduct its business. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your time attending meetings, training and completing projects.

The Parish Council has been supported by **Borough Councillors** Vivienne Spikings and David Pope and **County Councillor** Harry Humphrey, and we thank them for their time and help that they have offered.

Our **council clerk**, Kate Bennett continues to work hard and lead the council in a very professional and efficient manner. I am sure you will join me in thanking her for all the work she does in helping us as a council and we look forward to working with you again this year. Kate has also, on behalf of the council, begun the process of our pension responsibilities to the clerk come November 2016.

Moving onto other **Council Affairs**.

This year saw the council purchase the **BT red telephone kiosk** located in the high street. The decommissioning of the BT pay phone a sign of the 'mobile' times. The council felt that the opportunity to buy the iconic red box should be taken up so that this piece of history was retained for future generations in the village. Perhaps in years to come it will be a reminder of an era when villagers did not have instant access to a telephone in their pockets.

The parish council took delivery of the **SAM2 speed sign**. This was a shared purchase with Upwell and Emneth Parish Councils. The sign was put into use in September on a rotational basis. Nordelph had the sign for November and February. The sign has a post located on the Silt Road in response to residents continuing concerns about the speed of vehicles entering the village. Dick Balls and myself attended training in August. February's data was not useable as the unit required an update. But November's data suggests that many vehicles are in excess of the speed limit when they enter the village along Silt Road. An ongoing use will help us build a more accurate picture of actual speeds along the road at that point.

Council members attended various **Training courses**. Kate attended a Budgeting for Clerks course in Swaffham and attended the Planning Update session at BCKLWN. Geoff, Matthew, Kevin and myself attended Councilor training at Emneth and I attended Chairman training at Swaffham.

The **village sign** was replaced this year with a metal painted sign which will hopefully give the village many years service. It was designed and made by Bonnet's of Stoke Ferry. The swans represent the river flowing through the heart of the village. Hopefully the sign will in time be instantly identifiable with Nordelph.

A new **council notice board** was purchased and installed near the phone box. Many thanks to Dick and Ron for the installation which has with stood the winter winds so you must've done a good job thank you!

The **Silt Road** was closed at the beginning of the summer holidays for essential works to the road surface. The depth of the works meant that it was shut for several weeks causing local disruption and detours for traffic using this stretch of road.

The council took on the **maintenance of the village hall car park** which is currently contracted to Holly Landscapes. The council have also taken on paying for the **BT line**. We have done this because we can no longer receive paper copies of planning applications and felt it necessary to be able to view plans on line through the planning portal at meetings if required.

Lastly to give you a quick summary of the councils **financial figures**. You can view financial transactions in our monthly minutes and accounts are publicised yearly.

Our total income for the year was £7,901.56 (Precept £6,500, £710 cemetery, £678 VAT return, £14 PAYE return) compared to £10,222.24 for last year.

Our total expenditure was £7,810.22 compared to £7,950.18 last year.

We are carrying forward a balance of £16,287.71 compared to £16,196.37 last year.

This sounds high, but I would remind the council and the parish that we still need to complete footpath 7 and we have the refurbishment of the war memorial to complete. We are also uncertain what responsibilities we may have to take on with the Village Hall. We remain open to suggestions of projects that anyone in the parish may have and would welcome any suggestions in the coming year.

Many thanks.