

CHAIR'S REPORT FOR 2021-2022

RINGSHALL PARISH COUNCIL, ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 24TH MAY 2022

Thank you to all those representatives on Ringshall Parish Council (RPC) and at district and county council level, the Ringshall Village Hall Management Committee (RVHMC), local organisations and members of the public for showing interest and helping us in so many ways over the past three challenging years since our previous Annual Parish Meeting in 2019 – the last before the Covid pandemic prevented us from meeting in person.

Over the past year we have achieved a number of landmark solutions and improvements for the parish, which started before my time on the parish council, with the discussions and installation of the new Sewage Treatment Plant for the village hall.

This year we have put into operation a Speed Indicator Device (SID), which Peter Watson, Ringshall Speed Watch Coordinator, is kindly operating for us and recording traffic information.

We took part in online video discussions including those with the Wattisham Air Base Station Commander and MP Jo Churchill over helicopter noise and flightpaths and Station Staff Officer Martin Kinsey over speeding vehicles and litter through the parish.

We negotiated with Ringshall Primary School to create a reserve sinking fund to help pay for continuing maintenance of the village hall car park in future years. We have continued to upgrade street lighting with energy efficient light units.

In a bid to help with the wellbeing of the community, in line with nationwide and county objectives, with the lead of County Councillor Kay Oakes, RPC supported the creation of a Quiet Lane for Offton Road. It recently successfully applied for funding for signage and a new dog waste bin along the road by a Locality Award amount arranged by Mid Suffolk District Councillor Dan Pratt.

Work started and continues with the play area project on the playing field by members of a six-person working party of RVHMC and RPC members. Much of the effort of grant application form filling has been undertaken by Sue Watts representing RVHMC and Lacey Luther, the Parish Clerk, along with Heather Williams, representing the parish council helping to pursue the design ideas.

A public meeting about the Vegetarian Red Lion pub closure in Great Bricett was arranged in a bid to look at any viable option to retain it as a Community Pub but so far, its long-term fate is in the balance.

We successfully commented on a plan to put up to 69 new mobile homes on Great Bricett Business Park which we opposed due to putting increased demands on health care services locally as well as environmental factors.

The selection and installation of a new Parish Clerk following the departure of the previous clerk, Dave Smith, was an additional concern for us, but we were fortunate in having Lacey, who lives in the parish, being selected for the role.

We have encouraged new people to join the parish council and we now have a full complement of seven councillors.

We have also offered more publicity about what RPC engages in by reports in the Parish Magazine on our new website and by leafleting on occasions.

Looking to the future we will: Participate in the funding of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations next week; the Suffolk Decarbonisation & Climate Change Forums, including the National Grid pylon plans for Mid Suffolk; possible Speed Reduction Measures when travelling into our village from Great Bricett; and a suggestion of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for the future with Great Bricett Parish Council.



Chris(topher) Payne (Chair, Ringshall Parish Council).