

Annual Parish Meeting

14th May 2025

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Having taken over the position of Chairman of the Parish Council from Steven Smith in November 2024, I would first like to thank him for his time as Chair and his involvement in the village overall. He is still willing to help out with tasks between his own work commitments. Many thanks.

Parish Council meetings are held bi-monthly and are open to public attendance. Agenda and minutes are posted on the Village Notice Boards. Our North Norfolk District Councillor, Callum Ringer, often attends, as well as Local Beat manager Jack Houghton, from the police. Our County Councillor also attends and provides reports. We are grateful for their time and informative input. In March 2025, we coopted and welcomed two new councillors to fill vacancies: Andrew Wilton and Gregg Syder.

During the last twelve months, the Council have been involved with Highways on several occasions. For example, we negotiated over the position of the wigwags for speed reduction during busy school times, and requested posts to be erected on the school corner of the crossroads, opposite the church for greater pedestrian safety. The post box was also relocated to a more suitable and safer place. A large tree bough growing well over the road by Roamer Pond was cut back.

In the park, the children's play area needed attention. The "trim-trail" continues to deteriorate and some minor repairs/ replacements are ongoing. The Bucket swing has been repaired and the swing hangers are to be replaced. We need more funding to be able to provide new equipment for this facility.

The Parish Council objected to the removal of the public phone box in Upper Gresham, until a consistent reliable phone signal was available to all residents.

An extraordinary meeting was held on 5th February 2025 to reconsider the Budget and Precept for 2025-26, following notification of changes to the NNDC tax base, on inclusion of a second homes Council tax premium.

All Planning Applications have been dealt with in the correct timely manner.

Recently, another Roadside Nature Reserve, along the Bessingham Road, was designated by Norfolk County Council. (There is already one on Hellgate Lane.)

Some Councillors have attended the SNAP (Safer Neighbourhood Panel Meetings) meetings held by local Beat Manager Jack Houghton at Sheringham Community Centre. These are open meetings.

I have many people to thank: Sarah Hayden for her continued substantial contribution, as Clerk, particularly on the Council's Finances.

Many thanks to Geoffrey Wright for the footpath clearing and for hedge cutting.

Finally, thanks to and appreciation for the Parish Councillors for all their work and commitment.

Also, we must not forget our District Councillor and friend to Gresham, Pierre Butifoker, who sadly passed away after a long illness.

Simon Ilsley, Chair

14.05.25