

ANNUAL REPORT – NOWTON PARISH COUNCIL – MAY 2021

This report is a brief overview of business since May 2019 when the last Annual Meeting was held. Details can be found in the Minutes of each meeting on the Council website under *Onesuffolk*.

The Council received regular reports from **County Councillor Karen Soons** and **West Suffolk Councillor Terry Clements** and both have attended meetings. Funds for a new noticeboard for the bus shelter were provided by Councillor Clements from his Locality Budget and Councillor Soons was a great help in issues regarding the repair of roads due to flooding and school and local busses.

The Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, Andy Tucker, provides monthly figures from the police, warnings and information.

During Covid all were especially helpful in providing updated guidance and information.

All respond quickly to any queries and our thanks to all of them for their continued support.

Planning

There have been a number of planning applications considered by the council and a particular change has been in the reduced period of time for consultation. Application deadlines that occur between Council meetings are considered at additional Planning meetings.

Highways

Flooding has been a particular problem over recent months. Both Highways and Anglian Water have taken measures to alleviate this but time will tell how successful they have been.

The refilling of grit bins took place during the winter months and some important road repairs have been carried out. Despite this, potholes and the erosion of road edges continue to be a problem. Extra money has been made available to Suffolk County Council for such work and we hope to see the results of some of that spending here.

Involvement with the Local Community

As the council has done for many years £125 was contributed to the **Benefice Newsletter** in each of the two years. We were very sorry to hear of the sudden death of Doris Wright, the editor, and to learn that there would be no newsletter for the foreseeable future.

£100 was donated towards the **upkeep of the churchyard**.

Money has been set aside for the repair of the village sign, the planting of bulbs, the area around the bus shelter has been planted up to make it more attractive and the grass around the village hall has been regularly cut.

Money from the recycling bins has been passed to the **village hall** for maintenance.

The Emergency Plan was not reviewed in 2020 because of Covid and the intention is to do that later in 2021.

Nowton Park Rangers and volunteers have regularly donated bark chippings for the permissive path, cleared the footpath between the village hall and the Park gate, cut down overhanging branches and cleared debris.

Several people collect **litter** when they are out walking. This became particularly important during lockdown when many more people were out in the countryside. Our thanks to all these individuals.

The **Library Van** continues to park on the village hall car park on the second Tuesday of each month from 3-3.15pm.

New Councillors

During 2020-2021 Renee Forrow and Jon Green both resigned. They had served on the council for a number of years and Mrs Forrow had been Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator with Mike May. Our thanks to them for their valuable contributions.

Henry Hopking and Abi Smith were co-opted onto the council and we look forward to working with them.

Covid-19

In March 2020 at the beginning of the pandemic the appropriate parts of the Emergency Plan were adopted. It ensured that all those listed as vulnerable were able to access medicines, shopping, etc. It soon became obvious that many people are being supported by neighbours, family and friends, on a regular basis. The pandemic brought forward even more people willing to help in a variety of ways. It was revealing and heartening to see the response and many more people now know their fellow villagers!

Our hopes now are on a return to happier times where we can see each other's faces and walk easily with friends and family.

Finally

Thanks to all Councillors, the Clerk and Finance Officer, Mrs Pauline Stoddart, for her continued hard work, efficiency and support, and the Internal Auditor, Nicole Nicholls.

Carol Perry (Chairman)
May 2021