

## **Creeting St Peter Annual Parish Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

### **Chairman's Report on work undertaken by Creeting St Peter Parish Council 2015-16**

There have been **6 meetings** of the Parish Council during the past year, one meeting for the village regarding a planning application.

The Council has currently 4 members; we are hoping to co-opt a new councillor at our next meeting to make sure we are at full strength, so then decisions are taken that are truly representative of the whole Parish.

We have had one resignation of the Chairman, appointed a new Chairman until this meeting.

**Clerk** - We have appointed a new Clerk who has attended training and has been supporting the Council with all of its tasks.

**The Budget** – this has been set at £6,140. Due to the prudent management of the Council's finances, the Precept has changed from £4,796 to £4,870. This will make sure that we stay financially viable for the future.

An annual requirement of the Auditor is that the Council undertakes a full **Financial Risk Assessment** and a **Review of the Internal Audit Process**. These were both completed. **Financial Regulations** were also reviewed and found to be adequate for the Council's requirements.

### **6 Planning Applications were considered:-**

Lawful Development Certificate for continuous use of garden – Meadows  
We put in our first stipulations for it not be used for commercial use this was granted.

Erection of single storey rear extension and orangery - Laburnham Cottage  
We didn't object to this, was granted.

Erection of new offices, layout of new car park, erection of new industrial building, resurfacing - Grove Farm We objected to this and represented the village upon this objection. It was granted however, we are entering into meetings with Poundfields to hopefully create a working relationship going forward.

Erection of two storey rear extension (following demolition of existing single storey extension) - 4 Peterhouse

## Construction of 'Link Road' access between Phase 1 and Phase 2 of The Stowmarket Business & Enterprise Park- Land adjoining Mill Lane

**The grass on the playing field and the Village Green** continues to be cut by the Grounds Maintenance team from Stowmarket Town Council, who has done such a good job for us in the past two years. They also undertake some maintenance work at the playing field and also at Fen Alder Carr Local Nature Reserve.

The **Play Area** appears to be well used by the local young people. The slide will need to be replaced in a few years' time, and funds are being set aside for this purpose. Pigeon spikes were placed on top of both the Birds Nest swing and the Toddler swing to deter roosting pigeons. This appears to have been successful. There are plans for some tree planting and possibly a wildlife area. Also there has been discussion around, flattening the pitch to make the football pitch more user friendly. Work has also been undertaken to eradicate the molehills, which is ongoing.

**Village Lottery** - our thanks to Liz Sawyer who sold tickets and paid out the prize money, which amounted to £1,040. All profits will be used to improve and maintain amenities used by the residents of the Parish.

**Fen Alder Carr Nature Reserve** continues to be managed by the Parish Council. It is maintained as a Local Nature Reserve by conserving and enhancing habitats, particularly the wet alder carr woodland, meadow, fen and pond areas.

The Parish Council has undertaken to:

- keep it in good repair
- prepare an annual management plan
- encourage public access and promote Fen Alder Carr LNR to the local community as a wildlife study-site
- and ensure it is open to the public at all times - except when work is being carried out or when high winds are expected.

The site was only closed on a few brief occasions due to strong winds. A few incidents of anti-social behaviour were dealt with by the Police. The annual guided **Bat Walk** took place for the third consecutive year, led by the Suffolk Bat Group. There were 8 people in all who attended. The move to an evening in September again seemed to work well and with a clear sky was the prefect evening for bat detecting!

**Donations** have been granted the Suffolk Bat Group, and the Royal British Legion. A **poppy wreath** was laid, as in previous years, by the Parish Council on Remembrance Sunday at the site of the Parish War Memorial.

**Footpath Group** – this has been set up and has reported several problems with footpaths. This should hopefully continue for the benefit of the residents.

**Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities** - Has been implemented and this means that smaller Councils are now subject to a new requirement to publish information on websites, such as draft minutes and all expenditure over £100. The Council publicises much of its work already, but the Government considers that publication of the items covered by this Code will provide the local electorate and ratepayers with a clearer picture of the activities of these smaller authorities. Even more reason to follow the Parish Website!

The **Parish Newsletter** continues to be produced by the Parish Council, with issue number 25 being delivered in July. This, together with **Parish Website** is a source of information for residents. There are still some pages of the website unfinished as they need local input. Volunteers to help with the Local History page in particular, are needed. The Parish Council also, on occasions, provides articles for the '**In Touch with Creeting St Peter**' publication.

**Training** - The Clerk attended **2 training sessions** and 1 new Councillor attended a 4-module course. Also, 2 existing Councillors attended training held by the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC).

**20mph speed limit** - Is still waiting to be implemented, hopefully this should be very soon for the safety for the children and other residents of the Parish. We will find out further information from County Councillor Gary Green.

### **The Future ....**

The **Footpath Group** continues to work for the good of the village.

The **Playing Field** will hopefully be flattened so residents can access the park easier.

**Fen Alder Carr Nature Reserve** - We are going to discuss the best way forward for maintaining the boardwalk etc and promote its use for local residents.

**Telephone Box** - We are going to get this removed and look at moving the notice board into its place.

**Machala Peacock**  
**Chairman**  
**Creeting St Peter Parish Council**  
**14<sup>th</sup> May 2016**