

Kettleburgh Annual Parish Meeting

28th April 2016

Kettleburgh Parish Council Chairman's Report

So we have come to the end of the first year of the current term for the Parish Council. As has become usual in many past years, there were an insufficient number of candidates standing for election for an election to be held and this was true of many local town and parish councils. This is not such good news for local politics but pretty good news for the parish council, and indeed yourselves ultimately, as an election costs money and this can only come from the Council Tax.

David Harris, the previous Chairman, Debbie Germain and Deborah Bell chose not to stand for re-election and I thank them here for their previous efforts for and on behalf of the Parish Council.

Six individuals stood for election to be Parish Councillors; five from the previous Council and a new candidate, Judy Moorhouse. So although quorate, the Council required two more councillors to be co-opted to bring the number of councillors back to the required eight.

Three good candidates responded to the Vacancy Notice and following what was potentially a complicated and difficult process Rowena Edmondson and Denis Brooks were co-opted (Mr Nick Grimwood was the third candidate).

As you may or may not be aware the Parish Council hold just four planned meetings each year in May, August, November and February although we do have some unplanned meetings to review and discuss any planning applications.

One of the first tasks undertaken, which was of national rather than local in nature, was responding to the Government's consultation - "*Strengthening Parish and Town Council Accountability: Consultation on Extending the Remit of the Local Government Ombudsman to Larger Parish and Town Councils*". You shall be pleased to know that I do not intend to discuss this further but it is an example of the way in which government at this lowest level can seek to influence central government (when given the opportunity!).

As hopefully most of you are aware Martin Sims, as Parish Clerk, has a 'Parish Email Distribution List'. Like it or not, email has taken over from snail mail and other forms of communication and it has become a very useful means of contacting you all with details of meetings and activities within the village. However recent efforts in recent months

regarding the celebrations to be held in June for the Queen's 90th birthday resulted in the confirmation that this list was not complete. So if you think you, or someone near you, is not on this list please let myself or Martin know as it shall be a great benefit to us all to have a more complete list.

I learnt earlier this week that Councillor Peter Bellfield, our Suffolk County Councillor sadly passed away. We knew that he had been in poor health for quite some time and I received a letter from the Leader of the County Council a couple of weeks ago stating that his health was still not good enough for him to attend meetings and provided contact details of the Council's Cabinet.

Peter had been good to Kettleburgh over the years and so I wrote to him, I am not sure if he had a chance to read my letter but I hope that he did.

You heard the reports from all of the organisations in Kettleburgh and from those of the County and District Councils and this is the main reason for having an 'Annual Parish meeting'. You should also be aware of the other events that have become a regular feature of life in Kettleburgh, such as; the Village Fete, the Pantomime, the Quiz Nights and Keep Fit. What may not be so obvious is that a lot of these activities, together with those organised by the organisations listed on the agenda, tend to be organised and run by what I call the "Usual Suspects". So I would like to urge those of you who may not be so involved but could be able to, to consider doing so. I am sure that the "Usual Suspects" shall be very pleased to hear from you.

Trevor Jessop
Chairman, Kettleburgh Parish Council