

Kettleburgh Annual Parish Meeting, 20th April 2017

Kettleburgh Parish Council Chairman's Report

1. We are at the end of the second year of this Parish Council's current term. Let me just remind you who your Parish Councillors are there is myself as Chairman, Tim Chase as Vice Chairman, Rowena Edmondson, Denis Brooks, Judy Moorhouse, John Bater, Heidi Finbow and Nick Hulme.
2. The Parish Council held scheduled meetings in May, August, November and February; additional planning meetings were held in September and November and one planning application was discussed at the February scheduled meeting. In May we also dealt with one straightforward planning application for a change of use of a room at Rookery Farm by email correspondence.

The planning application received in late August last year raised an issue with notifications of such applications to potentially affected residents in Kettleburgh by SCDC in that we discovered that not everyone potentially affected was notified. There have also been road closures that only a few individuals received prior notice of. These ad-hoc notifications reinforce the need for as many parishioners as possible to be on the 'Parish Email Distribution List' so that such notifications can be promulgated to a wider audience. 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.

3. There was also the saga in regard to the phone box. BT put up a notice in the phone box stating that they planned to remove it on the basis of a lack of use. The general feeling was that perhaps it should stay if only for emergency use. I just managed to contact the 'planning authority' (as instructed by BT on the notice) by the deadline (42 days after the date of posting the notice on the 28 August 2016). However SCDC said "nothing to do with us". I then contacted BT through their dedicated phone box removal email and I received numerous automatic responses saying "sorry for the delay but we'll respond as soon as we can". The deadline was now long gone. More recently we received a letter for SCDC about BT wishing to remove the box with a new deadline of February 2017 to make comments. To be honest by this time I had lost the will and the general feeling had changed to we can live without it.
4. The Kettleburgh website is hosted by 'onesuffolk' and this was a free service enjoyed by many organisations in Suffolk. However from the 1st November last year the service was adopted by 'Community Action Suffolk' and there is now a charge for this hosting service. The Parish Council agreed to pay the annual charge (of £50.00 + VAT) for this first year and shall be seeking an alternative free service of which there are a number available.

5. The Parish Council had an approach from St Andrew's Church in regard to financial assistance for the maintenance of the churchyard. It was agreed in principle at the August meeting that the Council would provide a grant for this maintenance. The effect on the precept was minimised by careful financial management by Martin Simms, the Parish Clerk, and the grant agreed for this current financial year at the November meeting.
6. As you may recall the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations were discussed at last year's Parish Meeting. Further discussions were held between representatives of most, if not all, organisations within the village and at the Parish Council held in May the Council, following receipt of a report on the matter, concluded not to purchase a commemorative artefact and resolved to take no further action.
7. One of the successes last year was the purchase and commissioning of a defibrillator and as you can see it is mounted in the porch to the Village Hall. Thanks are due to Councillor Heidi Finbow for her sterling work in making this happen and to County Councillor Robin Vickery for making funding available for this. Leaflets regarding the existence and how this unit should be used were distributed to all residents late last year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those parishioners who provide assistance to the Council in carrying out tasks which we would otherwise have to pay for (that of course means you!). I shall not mention any specific individuals but they know who they are!

8. We looked into the purchase or borrowing of a traffic speed indicating device but the optimum siting of such a device is not yet obvious (and the cost of purchase is prohibitive).
9. We continue to endeavour to respond to questionnaires and consultations that the Parish Council receives.
10. You heard the reports from all of the organisations in Kettleburgh and those of the County and District Councils and this is the main reason for having this 'Annual Parish meeting'. I would also like to remind you of the other events that have become a regular feature of life in Kettleburgh, such as; the Village Fete, the Pantomime, live music events, Quiz Nights, Keep Fit and craft workshops. 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 a small proportion of the village's population. 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