



## **Great Bricett Annual Parish Meeting**

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held online via Zoom, at 7pm on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**PRESENT:** Cllr S Burnett (PC), J Walsh (Village Hall), R Morley, R Craddock, M Kinsey (Wattisham) and A Shawe-Taylor (PCC)

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs J Blackburn (Clerk) and District Cllr D Pratt.

### **GB01/21/22 - CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

The Chairman of Great Bricett, Cllr Sue Burnett, welcomed those present.

### **GB02/21/22 - APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Suffolk Police and Mr Gough, Ringshall Primary School.

### **GM03/21/22 - MINUTES 16<sup>th</sup> MAY 2019**

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting, held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019, were approved as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair.

### **GB04/21/22 - REPORTS RELATING TO THE PARISH**

Representatives of the following organisations were invited to speak and answer any questions. Where received, their reports are attached to the Minutes.

- a) **Great Bricett Parish Council** – *Cllr Sue Burnett*  
(Full report attached to these Minutes)
- b) **Suffolk County Council** – *Cllr Kay Oakes*  
(Full report attached to these Minutes)
- c) **Mid-Suffolk District Council** – *Cllr Daniel Pratt*  
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Cllr Pratt was thanked for the £800 locality funding for the refurbishment of the village hall floor. He was also thanked for the provision of two bottle bins at Wixfield Park which were used well by the elderly residents at the Park.

- d) **Suffolk Police**

Suffolk Police were not present at the meeting and a report had not been submitted.

- e) **Village Hall Management Committee** – *Judy Walsh*  
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

J Walsh explained that quotes for the garden project at the hall were currently being sought as was a painter to repaint the internal walls of the hall.

- f) **Parochial Church Council** – *Arland Shawe-Taylor*  
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

- g) **Tree Warden** – *Cllr David Payne*  
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Cllr Payne was not present at the meeting and his report was circulated prior to the meeting.

- h) **Ringshall Primary School** – *Mr Gough*  
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

- i) **Community Speed Watch** – *Cllr Sue Burnett*

Cllr Burnett reported that the team had been issued with new equipment and had met twice now that teams could resume since Covid 19.

- j) **Wattisham Airfield** – *Martin Kinsey*  
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Mr Kinsey reported that due to Covid it had been difficult to give the defence that the base were supposed to have done but come mid-June everyone would be back at the station. He added that the Army's Executive Council stated last year that Wattisham Flying Station would be an enduring base.

**GB05/21/22 - PUBLIC FORUM**

No issues were raised.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm.

Chairman ..... Date .....

## **Chair – Parish Council - 2020-2021 May 4th 2021**

What a year we have all had!! But as a Parish Council, things haven't stood still.

A big project was completed on the Village Hall floor, a water leak under the floor caused a considerable amount of rot. But with the help of Barry and the Village Hall Management Committee (and Maljohn) the whole floor was taken up and many joists and boards were replaced. Thanks to Dan our District Councillor for his grant to finish the floor surface. The problem outside was also attended too.

The PC also purchased and had installed a SID - speed indication device with poles in 3 sites for the SID to be moved around the village. Thanks to Richard and Arland for moving the device from pole to pole.

The Speedwatch team could no longer 'work' during the lock down but are now back in business!! In the Village we have had a number of Planning Applications, one resulting in a number of houses being built on the edge of the village. Plans are still in the offing for Bricett Business Park. Also the Red Lion Public House has been listed as an Asset of Community Value, in the hope of the owners keeping it open as a venue for us all to use.

The PC are in the process of leasing a small piece of land in the village to create a small woodland and wildflower area, a reasonable number of villagers are keen to assist with this, making a good place to meet others people who live here.

We said goodbye to 2 members of the PC, Nigel and Marina and welcomed Judy to our number. Our Zoom meetings have been necessary over the last year or so but let's hope that we can soon meet properly in the Village Hall again.



## 2020/2021 News Highlights

This is a selection of news items from Suffolk County Council that have featured over the last 12 months. For further details on any of these stories, and more, visit:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/>

---

### **March 2021**

---

#### **Suffolk County Council secures £3.1M for building decarbonisation initiative.**

Suffolk County Council (SCC), working in conjunction with property specialists Concertus, has been successful in gaining over £3M of funding from The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to promote capital energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation projects within buildings used to provide frontline public services.

Working with Concertus, the council has been preparing a range of packages to support the decarbonising of various buildings in the Council's estate including applications for the council's headquarters at Endeavour House in Ipswich, four rural fire stations, Beacon House, Waterloo Centre and Leiston Children's Centre.

The council's Children and Young People service also reviewed their portfolio of school buildings along with Concertus. This review resulted in the submission of grant applications for nine schools across the county, all of which were successful.

This grant scheme aligns with BEIS' new mission and priorities: fighting coronavirus, backing business, unleashing innovation, and tackling climate change. Through this scheme, it is supporting the council's own commitment to be net zero by 2030 along with the Government's own net zero goals and encouraging further green investment within the UK.

Packages of work vary from building to building, but many include the fitting of solar panels and battery storage, as well as improvements to wall or roof insulation and installation of Air Source Heat Pumps to move away from the use of fossil fuels for source of heating.

### **Suffolk County Council's cabinet confirms its support for Freeport East**

On February 23, the cabinet of the county council confirmed its support for the creation of a new Freeport (Freeport East).

The Freeport would cover both the ports of Felixstowe and Harwich as part of the Government's aim to create a number of Freeports across the country to drive job creation, investment and international trade post Brexit.

A Freeport includes secure customs zones and tax sites where business can be carried out inside a country's land border, but where different tax and customs rules apply. These rules mean Freeports can potentially reduce administrative burdens and tariff controls, provide relief from duties, import taxes, and ease tax and planning regulations.

Freeport East has several unique aspects which make its bid for Freeport status particularly strong. This includes global and regional connectivity, with 36% of all the UK's container traffic passing through the Port of Felixstowe, unrivalled international connections, particularly with Asia, strong connectivity to the Midlands and the North, thereby supporting the government's "levelling up agenda" in these areas. The bid also stands out as supporting other national objectives such as the development of new technology and the push for clean energy. The Port of Felixstowe has recently won funding to trial a pilot 5G network and has strong research and development links with Cambridge and Essex Universities. There are also strong links with the energy sector and the emerging hydrogen economy.

### **Highways doubles drainage budget following £27.2m announcement**

On February 17 it was announced that Suffolk Highways allocated an extra £2m to support the fight against flooding.

Drainage and flooding, Rights of Way bridges and resurfacing of roads in Suffolk have been allocated extra funds for the 2021/22 financial year following Department for Transport's funding announcement.

Keen to progress more drainage schemes across Suffolk to support the fight against flooding, Suffolk Highways has allocated an extra £2m – double its current budget allocation – in order to help tackle the worsening flood problems being experienced across the county.

Suffolk Highways also looks set to bolster its resource to support in the repairing or replacement of seven Rights of Way bridges across the county with an additional £800k, whilst committing a further £3.4m to the county's surface dressing programme.

Although the budget is less than the 2020/21 allocation, Suffolk Highways prudently prepared for a decrease and allocated a tentative £21m for the 2021/22 financial year.

---

## *January 2021*

---

### **Suffolk 2020 fund project embraces love of the great outdoors – Discovering Suffolk**

The Discovering Suffolk project was launched in January 2021.

The aim of the project is to raise further awareness of the range of great walking routes, areas of interest and the variety of landscapes that form Suffolk's beautiful countryside through public rights of way and points of access.

Given the experiences many people have faced over the last year living through the pandemic, it was recognised that exercise and wellbeing is a fundamental element in maintaining a healthy lifestyle, Suffolk's countryside offers a freely accessible means for many of us to experience nature and stay healthy.

The key element of the Discovering Suffolk project is the development of a smartphone app alongside a range of supporting QR codes fixed to rights of way signposts located along different routes to promote walking, cycling and exploring in Suffolk's countryside.

Discovering Suffolk builds on our changing behaviours when visiting the countryside, as people become ever more interested in local exploration and taking short walks and cycling exercises during the pandemic. The project will continue to promote the Discover Suffolk website as new content, information and advice continues to be added to the current offer, promoting walking routes and cycle rides through local communities. The project seeks to actively engage new audiences who are not aware of the options available on their doorstep or have perhaps only begun to explore the local countryside beyond their neighbourhood.

Work will shortly start on developing the Discovering Suffolk App and setting the sites for the QR code points around the county. After development, the new, free App will provide access to the full range of Discover Suffolk outdoor guides with over 100 walks across the county. The App and QR codes will include audio, video, imagery and fun activities to further enhance people's enjoyment, appreciation and understanding of Suffolk's natural and built environment.

---

## *DECEMBER 2020*

---

### **Suffolk wins the Most Innovative Family Information Service award**

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, Suffolk won the Most Innovative Family Information Service award at the National Association of Family Information Service Awards (NAFIS), 2020.

The award highlights the work undertaken to adapt Suffolk's online Community Services Directory, **Suffolk InfoLink** ([www.suffolk.gov.uk/infolink](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/infolink)), to meet the public's rapidly changing needs during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Community Information Team and teams across the children and young people's directorate worked together with thousands of community partners to collate and provide information to support to the

public. Many service providers in the voluntary and community sector were quick to adapt their offer and were supported to use Suffolk InfoLink to promote these opportunities to the public.

There are 7000 community organisation records provided on InfoLink allowing teams to communicate information quickly to thousands of sector partners, and the voluntary sector, and report progress to relevant government departments. On a week-by-week basis Suffolk InfoLink was updated to highlight which childcare providers were open for vulnerable children, and key workers such as NHS staff during the first National Lockdown which was an essential element of the Covid rapid response.

As well as helping key workers to find childcare, these developments also supported Suffolk's Track and Trace, Home but Not Alone and the Suffolk Advice and Support Service and provided 'easy to use' access to essential information including financial help and food banks.

---

## ***October 2020***

---

### **Adopt East launches**

14 October marked the launch of Adopt East, a regional adoption agency which has been established to recruit adopters across the East of England.

Adopt East will work across local authorities in Southend, Thurrock, Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Hertfordshire, Bedford and Luton to find families for children who are waiting to find their forever home. Adoptionplus, Barnardo's, and Adoption UK are also part of the partnership.

The Adopt East alliance will deliver the highest quality adoption service to children and families throughout the region by bringing together the expertise and skills of all its partners.

The scale of the organisation means that adopters will have access to a larger number of children waiting for adoption. This will help partners to match children with the right family for them, at the earliest opportunity.

Adopt East is committed to providing good quality adoption support services to support all families with their adoption journey.

### **Council announces £228,000 for tree-planting, protecting hedgerows and verges across Suffolk**

In October, it was announced Suffolk's natural environment will receive investment for tree-planting, restoring hedgerows, and improving roadside verges for wildlife.

£228,000 from the Suffolk 2020 Fund will enable Suffolk County Council to enhance its work to protect and encourage biodiversity in the county. The authority will do this through a number of new schemes, as well as building on existing work.

Working with The Woodland Trust, Suffolk Tree Wardens, landowners, and county farm tenants, the funding will support the planting of around 100,000 trees, including replanting hedgerows in suitable locations across Suffolk over the next 18 months. It will also help establish around 10 community tree

nurseries, which will support more planting in years to come. Local volunteers will be supported to collect seeds, set up nursery beds and grow trees in their communities.

The funding will also be used to trial better ways to manage roadside verges for wildlife. This includes exploring the use of new technology and cutting techniques, as well as developing new partnerships with parishes and landowners. The funding will help expand the existing Roadside Nature Reserve network managed by the council with the help of volunteers, seeing a 25% increase in the overall length of verges managed for wildlife.

---

## **September 2020**

---

### **The Hold welcomes first visitors and opens inaugural exhibition**

Monday 28 September saw the public able to access The Hold, Suffolk's flagship new heritage facility on Ipswich Waterfront.

This versatile new building will be the permanent home of the Suffolk Archives Ipswich branch and is shared with the University of Suffolk, who have dedicated teaching spaces within the building.

The creation of The Hold, and its associated countywide programme of events and activities, has been made possible thanks to a grant of £10.3m from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, and further funding support from other national organisations and local Suffolk heritage groups.

The public are currently able to access 'front of house' areas, including archive inspired displays, the café, shop, and toilets, including a new Changing Places facility.

First year History students were some of the first to try out the new facilities, with lectures and seminars beginning in the new facilities. The main area, known as 'The Street', as well as the café and shop, enjoyed a steady trickle of curious visitors and passers-by.

On 2 October, the long-awaited Exhibition Gallery also opened to visitors. The inaugural exhibition, *Global Events: Suffolk Stories*, examines how Suffolk has responded as a community to key global events over the past 100 years.

It focuses on the arrival of American service people during the 'Friendly Invasion' of World War Two, as well as the rising tensions and public messaging of the Cold War period, and the collective community response to the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020.

Through original archival documents, photos, music, and film, visitors will be able to explore the similarities and differences between these three global events and understand how Suffolk has changed as a result.

### **Council announces £300,000 for electric vehicle charging points in rural Suffolk**

On September 23, it was announced that 100 fast charging points for electric vehicles will be installed in rural parts of the county by Suffolk County Council.



The council will be reaching out to interested parish and town councils and non-profit organisations to put in fast chargers where there are currently none. The funding will cover the installation and set-up costs, meaning very little expense for the hosts and possibly creating a source of income for them.

This project is the first to benefit from the council's Suffolk 2020 Fund, which was announced earlier this year. This is a £3m fund for the council's own projects to bid into. Projects must help address the council's climate emergency declaration and must improve Suffolk for all residents in years to come.

The £300,000 award will link into the council's existing Plug In Suffolk project, which was launched in February 2019. It is the UK's first 'fully open' public fast charging network for electric vehicles, meaning drivers simply pay by contactless payment with no need to register their details.

---

## ***August 2020***

---

### **Suffolk celebrates 1,000 miles of newly surfaced roads**

On the 5 August, it was announced that Suffolk Highways completed its 1,000th resurfaced mile, following the Council's commitment to relay new road surfaces on a quarter of Suffolk's road network.

In 2017, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet committed to resurfacing 1,000 miles of road across Suffolk over a four-year period; in a bid to improve the quality of roads, reduce the number of potholes and to help stop potholes from forming in the first place.

The commitment also makes sound financial sense, as preventing the deterioration of road surfaces by machine surfacing or surface dressing helps reduce the need to spend more money on reactive maintenance repairing potholes now, and in future years.

The 1,000th mile was laid at Horham Road in Eye.

---

## ***July 2020***

---

### **Council proposes unprecedented environmental plans in response to climate emergency**

In response to its declaration of a climate emergency, Suffolk County Council aims to lead the way with an unparalleled range of activities and policy changes to support its ambition of being a 'net zero' authority by 2030.

At its meeting on 14 July 2020, the council's Cabinet reviewed and agreed an extensive programme of recommendations to achieve this ambition.

The plans include dozens of changes and new ways of working, from making its pool car fleet all-electric, to making it mandatory for all future committee decisions to consider the net zero ambition.

Being 'net zero' means that the council will remove its carbon emissions where it can; if it is unable to do so, it will compensate for those emissions. The council will adopt a more detailed method to measure its carbon emissions output, so that it can more accurately track its progress on an annual basis.

---

## ***June 2020***

---

### **Better Broadband for Suffolk reaches 100,000<sup>th</sup> customer as third phase contract is agreed**

By June 3, more than 100,000 households across Suffolk were using faster broadband, thanks to the council-led Better Broadband for Suffolk programme.

The partnership - between Suffolk County Council, Openreach, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (NALEP) and local councils – has made faster broadband available to around 150,000 premises so far, since being launched in 2010.

It means the current total superfast broadband coverage in Suffolk stands at more than 96 per cent, with plans currently in place to reach 98 per cent coverage before the end of the year.

The team has plans to go even further, after today announcing an additional phase of work, to provide connectivity to approximately 5,000 more premises, including over 550 businesses, in some of the most rural parts of Suffolk.

The work will be carried out by Openreach – operator of the UK's largest phone and broadband network, used by the likes of BT, Sky, Plusnet and TalkTalk – and is set to start as soon as deployment under the current contract ends. Work will continue until September 2022.

Faster broadband provides many benefits including staying in contact with friends and family through video conferencing services, easier web browsing and online shopping, the ability to stream high-definition video and work from home. Covid-19 has led to many of these benefits becoming even more crucial during times of social distancing and will have a large part to play during the recovery phase.

---

## ***May 2020***

---

### **Discover Suffolk's history with new Suffolk Heritage Explorer website**

On 20 May, Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service announced the launch of its new Suffolk Heritage Explorer website at [heritage.suffolk.gov.uk](https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk). This offers users a completely free resource of interesting, up-to-date information on the archaeology and history of Suffolk.

The new website includes an upgraded searchable interactive map and a database of known archaeological sites, which can be used to discover more about Suffolk's history from the comfort of your home.

Alongside free downloadable publications and resources, there is updated guidance and best practice advice on finds recording and access to the county's archaeological archives.

The website features key archaeological sites and projects, such as Suffolk's World War II heritage. You can find out more about the internationally significant Anglo-Saxon site at Rendlesham, its 12 years of ongoing archaeological research and results, with podcasts and archaeological reports.

A dedicated section on Ipswich also summarises the town's development through the ages, featuring the recently completed 'Urban Archaeological Database' with useful archive and planning guidance. There are also lots of downloadable activities for families and children.

---

## ***April 2020***

---

### **More than 98% of pupils receive a preferred primary school on National Offer Day**

On 16 April, it was reported that over 98.57% of Suffolk children were offered a place on National Offer Day at one of the schools preferred by their parents.

Suffolk County Council received 7,602 applications from parents indicating which primary school they would prefer their child to join in September 2020.

Some 7,116 children received offers for their first preference school and 7,493 children received an offer for one of their three preferred schools.

---

## ***March 2020***

---

### **Access for all at Suffolk rail stations**

Following successful bids for funding, Needham Market and Bury St Edmunds rail stations will now receive improved access to platforms for its passengers.

A partnership of stakeholders including Greater Anglia Trains, Suffolk County Council, Mid Suffolk District Council and the Needham Market Group has secured Access for All funding – a government funding programme for schemes to improve station access.

For Needham Market, the station will receive an upgrade to improve access to the Ipswich-bound platform 2.

At the Bury St Edmunds station, the funding will provide a new accessible entrance on the north side of the station, linking the new car park with the station concourse.

Plans for improvements to the Bury station have received support from Greater Anglia Trains, Suffolk County Council, West Suffolk Council, Bury St Edmunds Town Trust and other local organisations.

Following the funding announcement, all parties involved are now committed to making the initiatives happen as soon as possible.

**Mid Suffolk District Councillors' Annual Report (2020/21)  
For the Great Bricett Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 4th May 2021**

---

• **Governance**

Due to the Covid 19 emergency, there were no Council meetings from 23 March 2020 until the new Government legislation to allow virtual meetings was approved in May. Council staff have been working from home where possible and all Council and committee meetings are currently being conducted virtually using the Teams platform. The Annual Council meeting was deferred until September. The Green Party councillors formed a political group with the Liberal Democrat councillors, so we now form 50% of the total number of councillors. The chair of the Council is from the Conservative and Independent group.

• **Budget and investments**

The COVID pandemic is continuing to have a financial impact on the Council's budget. There are already losses of approximately £1M with projected losses of a further £1M during 2021/22. The Government has provided support but not sufficient to cover all the losses.

Despite having about £10M in reserves the Council increased Council Tax by 1.66%. It has been agreed that £4M of the reserves are to be allocated to the following departments Communities, Housing, Economy and Well-being.

The new rules about PWLB loans for the 'invest to save' scheme, have not halted the current round of acquisitions, but in future the Council will have to fund such activities in other ways.

• **Climate Change and Biodiversity**

The Climate Change working group made a number of proposals to Council, including projects such as Solar Carport at the Mid Suffolk Leisure centre site. Work is also underway at the leisure centres to reduce the carbon footprint. The waste fleet are to be converted to use biodiesel fuel. There is to be a biodiversity mapping project across the district and the public realm team to are hoping to work with parish councils to promote more tree and hedgerow planting.

• **Housing**

Council housing rents are set to increase by CPI+1%, which is on average £1.25 increase per week. Garage rents are to remain the same. Sheltered housing service charges are to increase by £1 per week, and sheltered housing are to remain the same as last year. In principle 'right-to-buy' receipts are to be retained for use to develop and acquire new council dwellings.

There is a programme of decarbonising Council dwellings. This year (20/21) 62 Air Source Heat pumps, 169 boilers have been installed in Council properties and there are a further 200 planned boiler installations over next year at a cost of £1.8m. A pilot project in Harleston in underway to test various schemes to find out the most suitable approach for our housing stock.

• **Planning**

The Regulation 19 Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan was agreed by both Councils and is now awaiting a response from the Planning Inspectorate.

• **Supporting the community**

Many community groups have struggled during the pandemic, but I was pleased to support the following organisations in the ward with CIL and Locality Fund this year.

- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds of £16,651 were secured to fund a new sewerage system for Ringshall Village Hall.
- Offton and Willisham Village Hall was awarded £542 towards the costs of a planting scheme to improve the car park. The Locality Fund provided a further £612 to support the LED lighting system upgrade for the village hall.
- Great Bricett Parish Council received £800.00 towards the costs of refurbishing the village hall floor.
- Barking Parish Council received funds towards an ecological survey and management plan for Barking Tye.

- Orchard Barn, the community-run environmental education centre based in Ringshall was awarded funds towards a solar energy scheme.

Community grants of over £150k have been awarded to community projects throughout the district as well as £100k specifically targeted at COVID related support groups.

Mid Suffolk District Council information is available via [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk) or by phone **0300 123 4000**

We would like to thank the Parish Council for all their work done throughout the year.

Dan Pratt Mid Suffolk District Councillor – Battsford and Ringshall Ward Email: <a href="mailto:daniel.pratt@midsuffolk.gov.uk">daniel.pratt@midsuffolk.gov.uk</a> Phone: 07775389193
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

## Village Hall Report 2021

As for everyone the last year has been challenging for the Hall. Most of the events which are usually held during the year have had to be cancelled. Fortunately the weather was kind during the summer and we were able to hold our coffee mornings outside. These were well attended. For a brief period the Craft group met but had to be run under the strict guidelines regarding the number able to attend.

We took advantage of the Hall being closed to have some work done and I am pleased to report that the damaged floor has been repaired and replaced where necessary and we are looking forward to showing everyone how beautiful it now looks.

On the downside we were not able to start the garden refurbishment as early as we would have liked due to the weather conditions but the work will be done as soon as practicable. There are also problems with the paintwork which are proving difficult to correct. The Committee is looking at ways in which this can be done and, hopefully, lead to a more permanent and practical way of dealing with future decorating needs. We are also hoping to refurbish the kitchen.

Let us hope that this year will prove better for everybody and life can return to some form of normality.

Judy Walsh – Chairperson

## ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT - May 2021

Can I first record thanks from the PCC for the continued support from the Parish Council with churchyard mowing and for providing the illumination of the church during the winter months. We are also again grateful to Oliver Cooper for providing parking space for special occasions and services.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused a stop of all church services and the building to be permanently locked from April to June in 2019. Since then our regular service of communion on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month has resumed but with masks worn and still no singing permitted.

The major roof restoration project was completed early in 2020. The whole of the south roof and almost all of the north was retiled with also significant structural repairs to the building. Outside the new path and Information Board were also installed. The total cost was £134,344 excluding a notional £13,325 of volunteer time. Local community fundraising and support contributed £10,669. The major grant support came from the Heritage Lottery Fund (£90,800) with additional sums from Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and All churches Trust. A photograph album of the works is on display in the church for visitors.

Arland Shawe-Taylor  
Churchwarden

## May, 2021: Annual Report by Great Bricett Tree Warden David Payne

This is my last report as your local tree warden, having taken on the role twelve years ago, the following year after I was invited to join depleted Great Bricett Parish Council. A lifelong passion for trees was nurtured in boyhood when my playmates and I regularly met at our “secret” camp beneath a holly tree in a blackberry spinney close by my grandmother’s home on the Hertfordshire-Middlesex border on the rural rim of London, unconcerned that we were trespassing on land then owned by the Parker Bowles family at Forty Hall, Enfield, whom Prince Charles’ wife, Camilla, married into with her first husband. Suffolk pioneered the tree warden scheme to encourage awareness of the importance of trees in our daily lives. So I soon became friendly with local landowner Oliver Cooper, who with his late lord-of-the-manor father, Rupert Cooper, owned 500 acres of farmland around our village -- but now owned by retired insurance underwriter Nicholas Thomson, who lives in nearby Lavenham. Mr Thomson has also purchased Tollemache Hall, which marks the historically important site of the “lost” village of Little Bricett.

It soon dawned on me that being tree warden in Great Bricett was severely restricted as we have no public land on which to plant trees, except our tiny village green, where there is already a magnificent Norway maple tree adjacent to the graveyard, itself dominated by a towering splendid Deodar Himalayan cedar. I have, however, planted three trees for posterity in the north of our village, two flourishing self-seeded birch trees in the landscaped grounds of Releet Close (where I live) and a magnificent sycamore tree I surreptitiously planted on a neglected piece of Ministry of Defence grassland close by the main entrance to Wattisham airfield as a reminder that nature first invented the Apache helicopter in the form of its twirling winged seed pods. Last year a firm that carefully monitors all MoD trees gave my vigorous sycamore tree an official metal number attached to its thickening trunk, bringing me great comfort knowing that it will be living long after “I’m gorn” as born-and-bred Suffolk folk say.

Our village is lucky to have ex-parish Councillor Charles Horne raising a mini arboretum next to his thatched home at picturesque Riverside Cottage, including a self-seeded horse chestnut tree, complete with a circular seat, which Charles organised after my idea to plant a fragrant lime tree on Colin Carter’s privately-owned sward at the village’s B1078 T-junction entrance failed to win support from my parish council colleagues as a suitable site for planting a tree marking the Queen’s diamond jubilee.

As I relinquish my beloved tree warden post I am delighted that our chair, Sue Burnett, has struck up a friendship with our village’s new landowner Mr Thomson, who has agreed to allow the parish council to transform a field he now owns south of Bricett Hall into a wildflower meadow and woodland, for a peppercorn rent, already accessible via public footpaths that run across the meadow.

The day-to-day running of Mr Thomson’s Great Bricett farmland is now in the capable hands of Barking Tye farmer Henry Ruffle, who tells me that thousands of woodland trees and several kilometers of hedgerows have been planted by his nature-lover employer.

Despite acrimony triggered by the erection of a barn requiring retrospective planning consent behind Riverside Cottage, the eventual outcome of the new residential Woodland Valley estate is the creation of much-needed energy-efficient new homes carefully planned with deciduous hedgerows and country-cottage style front porches that blend well with the pre-existing properties, supporting my anti-nimby stance predicated on the fact that, but for the redevelopment of Releet Farm, I would have settled elsewhere. The village sorely needs new blood, which is why I’m retiring as I approach my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.





### **The Great Bricett Annual Parish Meeting – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

This report will give a short overview of the learning provision in place during the spring 2021 lockdown where schools were closed to all but essential workers and home learning measures were implemented. It will also give an overview of the school plans for the future.

#### **Lockdown learning overview**

Ringshall Primary school closed to the children of non-essential workers on January 6<sup>th</sup> 2021. After that children of essential workers and children deemed vulnerable were invited into school. Staff worked on a rotational basis to teach the children who came to school and deliver the home learning offer.

Safeguarding remained a priority during the lockdown period, vulnerable children continued to be monitored and were invited to attend school. Children who were not in school, who were either deemed vulnerable or were not engaging with the online learning or teacher communication, were visited on a regular basis by the schools Educational Welfare Officer (EWO).

Teachers, as well as providing a comprehensive and interactive learning experience online, had regular contact with families through well-being phone calls home, emails, hangout assemblies and live lessons.

Google classrooms were used as the home learning platform during lockdown for year 1 to 6, Early Years children had work posted on Tapestry.

Work was posted daily for children in English, Maths and the foundation subjects.

Over a typical week all foundation subjects had work set. Work was supplemented with live lessons in Google Chat, recorded lessons, videos and social chat. PE was not missed either, lessons were uploaded onto the Google Classrooms to keep the children active.



### **The Great Bricett Annual Parish Meeting – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

#### **Future plans - a learning mind-set for all**

It is an exciting time for Ringshall Primary School. We have plans to develop a topic based curriculum from September that both ensures curriculum coverage and engages the children in varied and inspiring topic based learning. This approach is designed to develop life skills, such as oracy, empathy, teamwork, curiosity, mind-set, resilience and strategic thinking, as well as driving core subject knowledge, reading and writing skills and numeracy skills.

In next year's action plan reading will be at the heart of everything we do. We intend to ensure every student is a fluent reader by the time they leave Ringshall Primary School. We believe that reading is the secret to success in life and therefore must be our number one priority. We will be teaching reading across the curriculum as well as in English lessons and we will be giving children access to reading materials and opportunities to read or listen to stories in various forms throughout the week.

Wellbeing will be at the heart of everything we do. We have launched 'Wellbeing Wednesday' which is a day, once a week, devoted to developing a healthy body and mind. We are putting in plans to make sport, music and opportunities for new experiences, a central part of the Ringshall school experience. We intend to give the children an education that feeds, inspires and develops their learning mind-set.

We also have exciting plans to rip up the derelict adventure playground and replace it with a state of the art fitness and assault course that can be used for play, sport and nurture interventions. We are also planning to invest in our library, our outdoor learning resources and further develop our computing capacity.

On a final note, Ringshall Primary School intends to position itself fully within the communities it serves. Developing links and partnerships within the community, is a central ambition for the school as it moves forward.

## **WATTISHAM FLYING STATION**

**Station Staff Officer: Martin Kinsey**

By way of introduction, I took over from Robbie Silk in October 2020, on Robbie's retirement from service with Defence stretching back over 50+ years. I arrived at Wattisham after 23 years in the Army and, latterly, 15 years as a civil servant, the last 5 of which had been as the Station Staff Officer at Leuchars, Scotland (another former RAF Station!).

Since the last PC AGM, much change has taken place on the Flying Station with the planned structural adjustments and the re-subordination of all attack aviation under the 1<sup>st</sup> Aviation Brigade, based at Middle Wallop. No longer the Attack Helicopter Force (AHF), the Station remains the Main Operating Base for the Army's Attack Helicopters operated by two Army Air Corps Regiments (3 and 4 AAC) and supporting maintenance unit (7 REME). The Station Headquarters now provides the enduring real life support to the three units – think of an aircraft carrier, the Station HQ provides the stable, forward looking, platform for the units to live, work, train deploy from and recover to from operations and exercises across the globe. During the latter half of the year we received the first of the new AH-64E helicopters. The new aircraft's introduction delivers a significant enhancement to the UK's Attack Helicopter capability out to at least 2040 and the first flight is anticipated later in the year. It was also confirmed by the Army's Executive board that Wattisham will remain the home of the Army's Attack Helicopter, a relief to many as it means that Wattisham's long-term future has been confirmed. It would unthinkable to not mention the impact the COVID pandemic has had on all aspects of the Station and its community. We have been fortunate that we have not been hugely impacted. Like the rest of the country, the measures put in place have resulted in a reduced workforce around the Station, but support to essential maintenance, mandated training and unit deployments continued at pace. Whilst many worked from home, some, working with imposed restrictions and limitation, travelled overseas on exercise, recces, courses and preparation for AH-64E delivery. All required meticulous planning and the now routine testing and isolation periods pre and post travel... a small vision perhaps of what international holiday travel may look like later in the year!

The New Year has seen the start of several much-needed infrastructure projects around the Station, the refurbishment of the Station Dental Centre, construction of Role Equipment storage facilities adjacent to the hangars and the replacement of the District Heating pipework are just a few highlights. Funding has also been secured to demolish Block 314 and construct new Single Living Accommodation. With Spring very definitely in the air, the continued forward trajectory of the relaxation of COVID measures and the impending (June) phased return of personnel (and a semblance of normality) there is a very positive vibe around the Station.