

**GRUNDISBURGH & CULPHO PARISH COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**1st APRIL, 2016 - 31st MARCH, 2017**

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Tony Fryatt, Alby Green, Woodbridge Road, Debach IP13 6BZ	01473-737218
<u>County Councillor</u>	
Robin Vickery, 7 Framlingham Court, Valley Road, Ipswich IP1 4EF	07545 423827

**Meetings** The Council met bi-monthly and three Extraordinary Meeting was held. The Council's Finance, Planning and Footpaths & Environment Sub Committees also met during the year. The Annual Parish Meeting was held in the Village Hall on the 26th April, 2016 where reports were given on three ongoing projects in Grundisburgh which will have a massive impact on the village - an extension to St. Mary's Church, a new HQ for the Scouts and Guides and a new Village Hall.

**Councillor resignations.** We were sorry to lose Cavin Doyle and Norman Wilcock during the year and thank them for their contribution to the work of the Council. We welcomed Mary Bean who was co-opted.

**The late Peter Bellfield** We were very saddened by the death of Peter Bellfield in April. Peter had been County Councillor representing the villages for thirteen years and had been a good friend and supporter. He was held high regard by the many villages he represented and will be sadly missed. Robin Vickery was elected in his place.

**Queen Elizabeth 11 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations** A weekend of celebrations took place on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> June. A flower festival in St. Mary's Church, a Street Party in the Primary School involving the Lunch and Lyttleton Clubs and children of Primary School age and below. Concert at St Mary's where a variety of local talent performed. A special Songs of Praise was held in St. Mary's Church on the Sunday followed by fireworks on the Village Green to round off a memorable weekend of celebrations.

**Grundisburgh & District News** The Grundisburgh & District News continues to produce a quarterly free magazine for the sixteen villages it serves. We are very grateful to their very devoted team of volunteers.

**Defibrillator** Grundisburgh now has its own defibrillator to be used to help save lives from heart attacks. It is attached to the side of the parish rooms and 19 villagers have been trained by Lisa Barr and Casie Hall both very experienced nurses. The equipment was paid from the Locality budgets of our District Councillor Tony Fryatt and County Councillor Robin Vickery and the training was paid for by the Gurdon Trust and the Parish Council. It was installed free of charge by Doyle Electrical.

**Web Site** The Parish Council's web site <http://grundisburgh.suffolk.cloud> is a vital tool in spreading news and providing information. Over the years, it has grown to include masses of information including the minutes of council and committee meetings for the last year and sections on Planning, Housing, Environment, Local Shops and Businesses, Local History and lots more. It also has many useful links. Please give it a look.

**Welcome Pack** There is always a danger that newcomers can feel isolated and lost when they arrive in the villages. Welcome Packs compiled and delivered by Sally Grahn help enormously to help them feel at home and are greatly appreciated. These packs are full of valuable information to help those new to the area to help them settle in. If you know of anyone who has been missed please let Sally know 01473-738219.

*p.t.o...*

**Planning** The parish council is a statutory consultee for all planning applications in Grundisburgh and Culpho. The council receive details of all applications in the parishes and invited to submit comments to the Planning Authority. Planning is a very contentious subject and people can get very worked up about it but it must be remembered that anyone can object to, or support, applications. It must also be remembered that planning permissions are granted, or refused, by Suffolk Coastal District Council Not Parish Councils. The Parish Council has established a policy which directs how it deals with the various types of applications and these can be viewed on the council's web site or a hard copy can be obtained from the Parish Clerk.

**Footpaths & Environment** The Footpaths & Environment Committee, led by Chair Sally Grahn, has been very busy during the year. It is responsible for the general appearance of the village. Sally Grahn organised the Annual Litter Pick on the 12<sup>th</sup> March. The Sunday walks have again been very popular leaving the Village Green at 2.00pm on the second Sunday in the month. This is a great way to discover routes you are not familiar with and enjoy the beautiful countryside surrounding the village in good company. The walks last about 2 hours.

22 villagers participated in the Christmas Torch Lit Walk on the 19<sup>th</sup> December in the dark from the Village Green to Mr & Mrs.Hill's home in Hasketon where they enjoyed mulled wine, fruit juices and festive fare.

The Millennium Meadow, a rare area of wet grass land, which was conceived by the Parish Council as a conservation area to celebrate the Millennium and made possible by the generosity of Lord Cranworth in allowing us a 100 year lease. There is a regular work party on the first Saturday of the month 10.00am – 12.30pm. Please contact the warden John Dunnett on 01473-735515 if you can help. John and his helpers would make you very welcome.

**Affordable Housing** Grundisburgh is better placed than most villages with 134 (20%) of its total housing stock of 664 dwellings Housing Association rented or shared ownership. 54 of these are reserved for those with village connections again a high percentage. The addition of 4 one bed flats and 4 two bed bungalows on the new village hall site is most welcome especially for those wanting to downsize and young people who want to continue to live in their village.

**New Village Hall** Peter Kendall, Chairman of the Steering Group, reports that considerable modifications to the original design have been agreed with the Village Hall Management Committee after detailed research and consultation.

- Separate green rooms to take account of safeguarding and chaperoning regulations. These spaces can double up as storage for table tennis tables, carpet mat bowls equipment, etc.
- After various stage equipment firms were researched, the moveable staging on display was tested and approved. It can be semi-permanent; when in place, access to the stage/meeting room area will be by steps and stable doors from the sides.
- The chosen staging decks by Mainstage will give unobstructed storage underneath using trolleys for stage flats etc.
- Loft storage provides space for e.g. drama costumes.
- An all-electric kitchen will accommodate functions from small groups up to and including weddings. Two serving hatches, 3 phase electrical supply and refrigerated van power points outside will meet all catering needs.
- The length of hall is designed to be sufficient for carpet bowls without moving stage decking.
- Access from the south side of the hall to outside paving and green area beyond will extend hall use in good weather for marquees etc.
- The size of hall is calculated to be sufficient for up to 120 people cinema/conference style, or 80 – 100 (using stage area as well) for large parties/weddings.
- Acoustic folding doors to stage area will allow its use as a separate meeting room.
- Cleaners cupboard to be provided with butlers sink.
- Small secure office adjacent to lobby will accommodate phone, internet/wifi equipment, filing cabinet, outside security monitoring, fire alarm system, heating & ventilation controls, ticketing & booking arrangements.
- Sufficient male and female WCs will accommodate both small and large events.
- The hall's position in the building is designed so that the kitchen acts to limit noise drift towards the large houses nearest the site.
- Footpath access from Ipswich Road will separate pedestrians and vehicles.

Outline planning is about to be granted for demolishing the old hall and building two chalet bungalows on the site. The condition imposed by the District Council is that the new hall must be ready for occupation before demolition of old hall doesn't preclude a prior sale with appropriate conditions attached. The business plan will be completed shortly and then submitted to the Village Hall Management Committee for discussion; this will be followed by an accurate estimate of the building cost and then a funding plan can then be finalised and put into operation.