

GRUNDISBURGH & CULPHO PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
1st APRIL 2023 - 31st MARCH 2024

Chairman

Ann Willetts, 14 Gurdon Road, Grundisburgh, IP13 6XA

Telephone

01473-738831

Vice Chairman

Geoff Caryer, The Chestnuts, Rose Hill, Grundisburgh IP13 6TG

01473-738108

Grundisburgh Parish Councillors

Judith Bignell, 34 Orchard End, Grundisburgh IP13 6UA

01473-735459

Ben Cook, Round House, Post Mill Gardens, Grundisburgh IP13 6UR

07970 075761

Chris Dow, Greenacre, Half Moon Lane, Grundisburgh IP13 6TU

07984566367

Allen Dunnett, Fern Cottage, Lower Road, Grundisburgh IP13 6UQ

01473-735798

John Dunnett, 'Squeech Farm Cottage', Elm Tree Farm Lane, Grundisburgh IP13 6TL

01473-735515

Mike Harris, Willow Cottage, Otley Road, Grundisburgh, IP13 6RY

07710202077

Mark Mason, Dreamwood, Ipswich Road, Grundisburgh IP13 6TJ

07821887093

Mark Rankin, Half Moon House, Woodbridge Road, Grundisburgh IP13 6UF

01473-738597

Iain Rawson, West View, Chapel Road, Grundisburgh IP13 6XL

07792805435

Richard Youngman, White House Farm, Grundisburgh IP13 6RR

01473-735221

Culpho Parish Councillor

Vacancy

Parish Clerk

John Ager, 8 Post Mill Close, Grundisburgh IP13 6UU

01473-735541

District Councillor

Colin Hedgley, The Coach House, Playford Mount, Great Bealings IP13 6PH

01473-738468

Dan Clery, c/o Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft NR33 OEQ

07823 327998

County Councillor

Elaine Bryce, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX

07955 434440

Meetings The Council met bi-monthly. Extraordinary Meetings were held on the 9th October 2023 and on the 19th February 2024. The Council's Finance, Planning, Footpaths & Environment and Roads & Transport Sub Committees also met during the year. The Annual Parish Meeting was held on the 26th May, 2023

Resignations The Council were very sorry to receive the resignations of Dr. Liz Hodges and David Higgins and welcomed new members Iain Rawson and Mark Mason.

Web Site The Parish Council's web site <https://grundisburgh.suffolk.cloud/> continues to grow with information about village life, the parish council and has many useful links. There are sections containing the minutes of council and committee meetings going back to 2013 also sections about Conservation & Environment, Footpaths, Local History, Housing, Village Organisations, Planning, and much more.

Planning The Parish Council is a statutory consultee for all planning applications in Grundisburgh and Culpho which means that the council is informed of all applications in the parishes and invited to submit comments to the Planning Authority. Planning permission is granted or refused by East Suffolk Council, who consider recommendations from the Parish Council as well as comments from other organisations and members of the public.

Planning Application details are posted on the Old Forge Stores Notice Board, East Suffolk Council's and Parish Council Web Sites and on the site of the application. In certain circumstances East Suffolk Council notifies neighbours.

Planning can be a contentious issue and the Parish Council established a policy in September 2019 which directs how it deals with the diverse 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.

Storm Babet On the 18th October Storm Babet hit Grundisburgh and neighbouring villages with force causing considerable flooding which severely damaged eight properties in Grundisburgh. Some residents are having to vacate their homes for a six months drying out and restoration period. Our sympathies are with everyone so badly affected and their considerable losses. The Parish Council are very grateful to Paul Franklin who has carried out a survey of the water courses running through

Storm Babet continued....

Grundisburgh which indicates areas where the flow is hindered. His report, when complete, will provide a starting point which could be enlarged to make recommendations to mitigate flooding in the future.

Chapel Field Development The building of 70 homes on Chapel Field continues and some are already occupied despite the improvements needed to the junctions Lower Road and the B1079, Park Road and Ipswich Road, and Footpath 20 not having even been started let alone completed before any dwelling were occupied.

The Grundisburgh Action Group and the Parish Council are monitoring this development and keeping a wary eye on any future building proposals for the village.

Coronation Grundisburgh's official celebrations began with a service in St Mary's on Sunday May 7th followed by a picnic lunch at the Village Hall, where the events team had arranged "Crown It" a very full, free to enter day and evening. The children were very ably entertained with games and a crown making competition. There was a Ceilidh followed by more dancing to Larkside, our famous local band, and of course lots of food and drink in between.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Neighbourhood CIL Regulations states that parish councils must spend Neighbourhood CIL on:

- *The provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or*
- *Anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.*

A well attended Extraordinary Council Meeting was held on the 9th October to determine the allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy Grants received by the Parish Council based on the 100 plus suggestions received from residents.

So far the grant awarded to the Tennis Club has enabled them to resurface the Courts on the Playing Field. Another Speed Indicator Device (SID) has been purchased. The Parish Council were able to pay for a box and the electrical connection to house the defibrillator, given to Grundisburgh School free of charge. It is now available for the whole village.

More Acoustic Panels have been fitted at the Village Hall following a survey to improve the sound in the main hall.

Funds have been allocated for the restoration of the Grundisburgh Corner Gates, Sandboxes, Lower Road Signage, Dog Waste Bins, Millennium Meadow and the Village Green.

The minutes of this meeting can be read on the Meetings page of the Parish council's web Site

<https://grundisburgh.suffolk.cloud/meetings/>

East Suffolk Planning Alliance

- *To serve the local communities of East Suffolk by working to place local communities at the heart of local planning decisions"*
- *To support the development of locally led planning policies driven by Neighbourhood Planning Partnerships*
- *To help deliver the right homes in the right places with the right infrastructure.*

The Alliance's 50 affiliates came together for a first birthday conference held in Grundisburgh's Village Hall on the 17th February.

A very distinguished panel debated a series of set questions followed by a very lively Open Forum.

The Panel

Chair. Julian Cusack - District Councillor - ex Suffolk County Councillor

Panel - Chris Bally - CEO East Suffolk Council

Lord Deben - UK Independent Committee on Climate Change

Stephen Molyneux- Woodbridge Tide Mill and District Councillor

Eamonn O'Nolan - Deben Climate Centre, Mayor of Woodbridge

Peter Hobson - Professor Biodiversity, Conservation & Sustainability

Michael Cole - Journalist - Advocate for Suffolk

Footpaths & Environment The monthly walks continue to be very popular as was the annual torchlit Christmas Walk to Mr & Mrs Hill's home in Hasketon where Christmas Fare was laid on for the walkers. Grateful thanks to Hilary and Trevor.

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without the illuminated Tree on the Village Green. Our thanks to Mrs. Bignell and her band of helpers who erected the tree and the owner of The Old Coach House who allow us to tap into their electricity supply. Thanks also to the villagers living around the Green who decorated their homes with Christmas lights and the colourful window lights of St Mary's Church.

As time goes by the Millennium Meadow grows in importance as a unique and extremely valuable conservation area – a rare example of wet grassland which used to be widespread in the countryside in bygone days.

We are very grateful to local and Greenways volunteers who provide much needed labour particularly at grass cutting time. However more local volunteers are needed. If you would like to be involved, more help is always welcome, please phone the Millennium Meadow's Warden Paul Franklin (01473-735295).