

GRUNDISBURGH & CULPHO PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
1st APRIL 2024 - 31st MARCH 2025

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Vacancy

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County Councillor

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

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Councillor John Dunnett BEM Congratulations to Mr Dunnett on the awarding of the BEM (British Empire Medal) in the New Year Honours List for services to the Community in Grundisburgh. Mr Dunnett has been a Parish Councillor for 65 years.

Meetings The Council met bi-monthly. Extraordinary Meetings were held on the 11th June, 29th July and 28th October 2024. The Council's Finance, Planning and Footpaths & Environment Sub Committees also met during the year. The Annual Parish Meeting was held on the 20th May, 2024

Resignations The Council were very sorry to receive the resignation of Ian Rawson and welcomed new member Eric Dingman..

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

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.

Current 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.

Lloyds Bank Tour of Britain Cycle Race On the 8th September the final stage of the Lloyds Bank Tour of Britain Cycle Race, which started in Lowestoft and ended in Felixstowe, raced through Grundisburgh and Culpho. The route came from Clopton into Grundisburgh past the Dog Inn and Village Green up past the village hall and on through to Culpho. To add to the excitement one of sprint sections ended at the top of Ipswich Road in Grundisburgh. Ahead of the race all the police motorcycles, and official vehicles made a spectacular parade through the villages. The Parish Council secured a grant from East Suffolk Council to provide hot dogs, 6 varieties of cake, tea, coffee and soft drinks free of charge on the Village Green. Thanks to all the volunteers who served a very grateful public, provided cakes and the Scouts for the super hot dogs. Very importantly thanks to all who stayed or returned to make sure we left the Village Green just as we had found it in almost pristine condition.

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*

Since the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting the Council has received additional CIL funding which enabled it to pay for the resurfacing of the Olde Forge Stores Forecourt, and award grants for the reconfiguration of the Primary School's Atrium, Millenium Meadow new pond dipping platform, new oak bridge and pond de-silting, Playing Field Pavilion installing 3 new external doors, and Tree Surgery and installing new Grundisburgh Corner Signs

Funds have also been set aside for more Sandboxes & Dog Waste Bins, The New Scouts HQ, Village Gates for Culpho & Grundisburgh, Flood Prevention, Village Green Electricity Supply & Maintenance, Lower Road Traffic Mitigation Signs,

Otley College Of Agriculture And Horticulture Charity Lane. proposed HGV training facility.

The Parish Council has objected to this proposal and has urged East Suffolk Council to refuse Planning permission. Charity Lane is a narrow road with no purpose-built passing places over its total length.

Suffolk County Council Highways Department have not objected to this application which considering that this development will disgorge HGV learner drivers onto a road they have designated and signed as "*Unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles*" is incomprehensible.

This proposal would have an unacceptable impact on highway safety, local roads and the living conditions of local residents along the whole of Charity Lane. Their lived experience on the lane is no longer one of countryside tranquillity but of a creeping increase in traffic.

Westerfield Quarry The Parish Council has objected in the strongest possible terms to this proposal which is to extract and process sand and gravel on site over a 16 year period and import more material to be processed. An industrial use on a site so close to residential properties is not only totally inappropriate it is downright dangerous due to pollution extreme noise and vibration.

The use will have significant adverse impact on the residential properties in the surrounding villages by way of noise, vibration, air pollution, ground pollution, and contamination of the water table. The surrounding roads B1077, 1078 and 1079 are unsuitable to take the increase in heavy HGV traffic, this industrial use would create. 252 HGV lorry movements a day, every working day, using our narrow rural roads, for 16 years. The Parish Council objected so strongly because this development, if approved would impact local roads and has donated £1,000 to the Stop the Quarry Campaign

This application is being dealt with by Suffolk County Council and it is pleasing to see that our County Councillor Elaine Bryce is very actively opposing it.

Storm Babet Mr. Frankin made a tremendous start with his Survey of Grundisburgh's rainwater management systems carried out immediately after Storm Babot. The considerable work he has carried out in clearing much of the undergrowth has vastly improved the water flow in the Gull during normal rainfall. He has been greatly helped by Basts gardener and villagers. He feels that this solved only part of the problem and needs to be followed by the cleaning and widening of the Gull further down stream.

Chapel Field Development The building of 70 homes on Chapel Field has been completed and the developers are off site. A traffic survey will be conducted on Lower Road and compared with a survey carried out before building started to determine what traffic mitigation measures need to be installed. This has been a very troublesome development and it is good to see it done and dusted so that the village can move on.

It is great to see that many of our new neighbours have settled in so quickly and are participating in Village life. Some initially were a bit wary knowing that there was a great deal of local opposition to the development but now feel welcome and happy in their new homes.

Footpaths & Environment The monthly walks are very popular and are an excellent introduction to our footpaths for those new to the area. Also very popular 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.

Many thanks to Judith Bignell and her helpers for erecting the Christmas Tree on the Village Green. It is a magnificent sight. Thanks also to the villagers who decorated their homes with Christmas lights and the colourful window lights of St Mary's Church which completes the picture in the centre of the village.

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).

East Suffolk Planning Alliance (ESPA) The Alliance, formed in February 2023, has since grown to comprise 60 affiliated town councils, parish councils and residents' groups, meeting regularly to identify and discuss issues around planning policy, procedure, delivery and sustainability.

ESPA seeks greater community participation in the planning system in East Suffolk. ESPA believes that local communities should be at the heart of planning decisions and be recognised as stakeholders in that decision-making process

Its most significant achievement is the establishment of a Community Engagement Group (CEG) as part of an ongoing partnership between East Suffolk Council and ESPA with the purpose of strengthening community engagement in the planning system.

The CEG will meet three times a year at East Suffolk Council's offices in Melton and Lowestoft, chaired by an elected member and attended by ESPA steering committee representatives, senior executives to represent the Council and its planning community, and associate agency and third parties as appropriate.

The CEG will collect questions from ESPA affiliates for submission, discussion, escalation, and resolution, with the aim of representing the full geography of East Suffolk and providing a forum to question and express views on planning processes, interpretation and implementation of strategic planning policy.

ESPA is also affiliated with the nationwide Community Planning Alliance of more than 500 grassroots groups seeking greater community participation in planning, greater environmental protections, and to ensure the right developments and infrastructure in the right places."

Village Maintenance Early in the year the Parish Council concerned at the growing list of maintenance work waiting to be carried out in the village by Suffolk County and East Suffolk Council's due to lack of funding came to the conclusion that if we wanted jobs done we would have to "do it ourselves".

Councillors Chris Dow and Allen Dunnet organised the first Village Spruce Up Session on the 17th August on the Village Green helped by 20 volunteers. The three benches were stained, white posts and rails painted, directional sign post painted - the roundel was extensively refurbished. The telephone box had recently been painted by BT. The overall effect of all this work was startling and was very well received by the community with more than 140 'likes' via the village Facebook Page.

A further session was held on the Village Green on the 21st September focussing on the Bus Shelter, Lamp Post and the Village Sign to complete the job.

More work was carried out later on Lyttleton Meadow and the Basket Makers Bus Shelter and 1,350 bulbs (daffodil, bluebell, snowdrops and aconites) have been planted in various locations in the village. Please speak with Chris (07984566367) or Allen (01473-735798) if you would like to join Grundforce.

There are 36 village organisations listed on our Parish Council's Web Site. This list is incomplete – there are more.

Beavers
Bell Ringers
Bowls Club
Brownies & Rainbows
Carlford Group
Chaps Chat
Community Tech Hub CIC
Cubs
Explorers
Film Club
FOGS (Friends of Grundisburgh School)
Folk Dance Group
Football Club
GADS (Grundisburgh Amateur Dramatic Society)
Grundisburgh & District News
Guides
Horticultural Society (Village Show)
Local History Society
Lunch Club
Offbeat Men's Choir
Parish Council
Parish Rooms
Paul & Lucy's Barrell Organ Music Show
Playfield
Primary School
Scouts
Sir William Brampton Gurdon Cottage Trust
St. Botolph's Church Clopton
St. Mary's Church
Tap Dance Classes
Tennis Club
Upbeat Ladies Choir
Village Hall
What's on in Grundisburgh Newsgroup
Women's Institute
Youth Club