

GRUNDISBURGH & CULPHO PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
1st APRIL 2018 - 31st MARCH 2019

| <u>Chairman</u> | Telephone |
|--|--------------|
| Stephen Barnett, 57 Gurdon Road, Grundisburgh IP13 6XA | 07714-798265 |

| <u>Vice Chairman</u> | |
|---|--------------|
| Ann Willetts, 14 Gurdon Road, Grundisburgh IP13 6XA | 01473-738831 |

| <u>Parish Councillors</u> | |
|---|--------------|
| William Barber, 7 Alice Driver Road, Grundisburgh, IP13 6XH | 07526-360956 |
| Mary Bean, 6 Alice Driver Road, Grundisburgh IP13 6XH | 01473-738425 |
| Judith Bignell, 34 Orchard End, Grundisburgh IP13 6UA | 01473-735459 |
| Charles Burch, Brook Farm House, Grundisburgh IP13 6RB | 01473-735109 |
| Geoff Caryer, The Chestnuts, Rose Hill, Grundisburgh IP13 6TG | 01473-738108 |
| John Dunnett, Squeech Farm Cottage, Grundisburgh IP13 6TL | 01473-735515 |
| Paul Franklin, Jasmine Cottage, Ipswich Road, Grundisburgh IP13 6TJ | 01473-735295 |
| David Higgins, Walnut House, Meeting Lane, Grundisburgh IP13 6UB | 01473-738694 |
| John Lapsley, 1 Abbey Farm Barn, Culpho, IP6 9DG | 01473-738008 |
| Peter Kendall, Ford House, The Green, Grundisburgh IP13 6TA | 01473-738267 |
| Richard Youngman, White House Farm, Grundisburgh IP13 6RR | 01473-735221 |

| <u>Clerk</u> | |
|---|--------------|
| John Ager, 8 Post Mill Close, Grundisburgh IP13 6UU | 01473-735541 |

| <u>District Councillor</u> | |
|---|--------------|
| 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 five Extraordinary Meetings were held. The Council's Finance, Roads & Transport, Planning and Footpaths & Environment Sub Committees also met during the year. The Annual Parish Meeting was held in the Village Hall on the 24th April, 2018 where reports were given by our County and District Councillors, beneficiary local organisations of the late John Batchelor bequest and an update on the new village hall project.

Web Site

The Parish Council's web site <http://grundisburgh.suffolk.cloud> has expanded considerably over the years and is a valuable source in keeping villagers informed of council activities and providing information. Information includes the minutes of council and committee meetings and sections on Conservation & Environment, Footpaths, Local History, Housing, Village Organisations, Planning, and lots more. It also has many useful links. 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 receive details 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 members of the public.

The District Council is under huge pressure from central government to meet new-build housing targets whilst preserving the local village community environment. Added to this, developers and consultants work with landowners to identify potential sites for development, based on commercial considerations.

In 2018/19 the parish council opposed the proposals for Grundisburgh included within the District Councils Final Draft Local Plan. Of the Representations received by the district council from 543 respondents covering the whole of Suffolk Coastal the highest number, 121 have come from Grundisburgh, next highest was North Felixstowe 62. So, a very big thank you to THE VILLAGE for your support. We hope to be called by the government Inspector in June to take part in the public hearings. Philip Lewis BA (Hons) MA MRTPI has been appointed to conduct the examination to determine whether the Local Plan is sound.

Planning can be a contentious issue and the Parish Council has established a policy 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.

Roads & Transport

During the year, the Parish Council received a significant number of complaints about drivers speeding in Grundisburgh and Culpho. The increased HGV traffic from the East Anglia One depot was a cause for concern, particularly during 'school run' times and on parts of the route where there are no verges or pavement to protect pedestrians.

The Parish Council highlighted the concerns regarding HGV traffic to the East Anglia One project contact. The Roads and Transport subcommittee have worked with local SAVID initiative to install a Speed Indicator device (SID) in Grundisburgh. The SID is funded by the District Council and is shared between villages; several sites in Grundisburgh have been identified for locating the SID which will be moved on a regular basis.

A Grundisburgh community speed watch team has been established with 8 volunteers.

When the Parish Council receives complaints, it encourages villagers to report road and traffic problems directly to the County Council using the reporting tool on their web site:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads-pavements-and-verges/potholes/report-a-pothole/>

Complaints from the people directly affected by the problem are more likely to be listened to.

Footpaths & Environment

The monthly walks proved to be popular as was the annual torchlit Christmas Walk to Mr & Mrs Hill's home where Christmas Fare was laid on for the walkers. The Footpaths and Environment committee carries out important work to maintain the village surrounds, including litter picking, cleaning signs, re-turfing worn area of the green and other tasks that make a difference in the village.

At Christmas, the tree in the centre of the village was an impressive celebration of Christmas thanks to the work by Mrs Bignall and Mr Doyle, together with the villagers living around the Green who decorated their houses with Christmas lights and St Mary's church with that star on the steeple and floodlit windows.

A memorial bench in remembrance of the late County Councillor Peter Bellfield was sited on the village green. There are 13 benches in Grundisburgh which need occasional cleaning/staining. The Footpaths & Environment committee of the Parish Council is asking residents to 'adopt' a nearby bench to carry out this regular maintenance. If you are able to help, please contact Paul Franklin at the end of the Annual Meeting or on 01473 735 295.

Nineteen years ago, Lord Cranworth opened the Millennium Meadow which is a conservation area to celebrate the Millennium. Whatever the time of year it is always carefully maintained thanks to the regular work party which meets there on the second Saturday of the month 10.00am – 12.30pm. Please contact the warden John Dunnitt on 01473-735515 if you can help. John and his helpers would make you very welcome.

The New Village Hall Project

The Parish Council is a custodian trustee of the Grundisburgh Village Hall and as such, holds the assets of the charity but takes no part in the management of these assets. This topic was discussed in depth at council meetings and further, professional opinion is being sought in order to establish the extent of the Council's role as custodian trustee. The Parish Council established as its policy that any request for a loan, undertaken on behalf of the community as a whole, to finance the construction of a new hall would be the subject of a 'full and fair' village ballot organised by the PC and overseen by an independent adjudicator

Finance 2018/19

Income was £23,551, expenditure £16,509 and at year end, total assets of £37,057 made up of general fund £19,299 and earmarked reserves £17,758. A summary of accounts is attached.

Summary of Accounts
as at 31st March, 2019

| | 2017/2018 | 2018/2019 |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| <u>Income</u> | | |
| Precept | £17,500 | £18,250 |
| Allotment Rents | £192 | £204 |
| Interest | £98 | £152 |
| Locality Grants | | £3,800 |
| Neighbourhood Funding (CIL) | | £207 |
| Donations | £582 | |
| Neighbourhood Funding | £102 | |
| VAT Repayment | | <u>£938</u> |
| | <u>£18,474</u> | <u>£23,551</u> |
| <u>Expenditure</u> | | |
| Administration | £7,052 | £6,874 |
| New Village Hall | | £52 |
| Highways & Bus Shelters | £300 | £450 |
| Defibrillator | £164 | |
| Parks & Open Spaces | £6,481 | £6,785 ^{Note 1} |
| Section 137 Payments | £2,256 | £1,801 |
| VAT Paid | <u>£406</u> | <u>£547</u> |
| | <u>£16,659</u> | <u>£16,509</u> |
| <u>General Fund</u> | | |
| Earmarked Reserves | £18,930 | £19,299 |
| Total Assets | <u>£11,071</u> | <u>£17,758</u> |
| | <u>£30,001</u> | <u>£37,057</u> |

Note 1 Parks & Open Spaces expenditure for 2018/2019:

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Benches* | £1,804 |
| Bowls Club | £400 |
| Dog Fido Bins | £106 |
| Football Club | £350 |
| Footpaths & Environment | £91 |
| Baptist Church** | £195 |
| St Mary's Church** | £640 |
| St Botolph's Church** | £195 |
| Playing Field** | £667 |
| Village Green Grass Cutting | £1,720 |
| Village Green Christmas Tree | £172 |
| War Memorial | £231 |
| Miscellaneous | <u>£214</u> |
| | <u>£6,785</u> |

* Includes the Bellfield Bench which cost £800, covered by Robin Vickery's Locality Budget.

** Grass cutting