

Annual Parish Meeting 2010 Reports

Parish Council Chairman's Report

I apologise that I cannot be with you today as I am at a Board meeting in France. I'm pleased that my Vice Chairman, Alan Revell, will present my report this year instead. At the AGM in May I was elected as Chairman for a 4th year and it is a privilege to retain your trust in this way.

This year [REDACTED], Tim Roberts and [REDACTED] have joined the Parish Council and are already showing themselves to be very hard working members. [REDACTED] has taken on the role of Tree Warden, and has already done a tremendous amount of work. Tim has drawn up an Emergency Plan for the village and [REDACTED] has masterminded the Parish Plan. The Parish Plan has required a huge amount of work over the past few years to draw up the questionnaires, issue them to all households in the village and then to collate and analyse the answers. The report has just been issued and we will now draw up a plan to address the recommendations and seek funding for its implementation.

We've relaunched the OASIS this year under new editor [REDACTED]. It's now "The New OASIS" which is in a smaller format but with more pages, more photographs and with colour. I hope you like the result.

Under Councillor [REDACTED] we've kicked off a programme to update the street lighting in Kelsale cum Carlton this year which will be upgraded to more reliable and energy efficient stock. You'll probably have noticed that some street lights which haven't worked properly for years are now working again.

This year we've said goodbye to Councillors [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as well as long-standing members [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who have served on the PC for over 7 years. Our thanks go to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for their many personal sacrifices in serving the community for such a long period. [REDACTED] was the Community Sub-Postmistress at Kelsale for 10 years before being elected as a parish councillor. [REDACTED] served on the Welfare Trust Committee and the OASIS Distribution Team, organised the Bonfire Party and helped start the Youth Club. [REDACTED] many roles included periods as School Governor, Portfolio Holder for the Recreation Ground, OASIS Distributor and served on the Youth Club and Parish Plan Steering Committees. I will always remember [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for the enthusiasm with which they set up the Youth Club a couple of years ago which was much needed by the village and has been very popular with youngsters. They have also both been stalwarts behind the (now annual) bonfire night parties which are now an established part of village life, but without the hard work of people like [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] these could not continue.

We are also about to see the departure of our even longer standing Parish Clerk, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] has been our Parish Clerk for more years than most of us can remember and, after over 18 years, is probably the longest serving Parish Clerk in Suffolk Coastal. [REDACTED] has been the lynch pin of village activities and has served under 5 different Chairpersons of the Parish Council. [REDACTED]'s intimate knowledge and experience of village affairs, as well as his friendly and welcoming manner and willingness to help at any time of the day or night, will be very difficult to replace. However, we will have to try. We held interviews for a new Parish Clerk last week and I thank Alan Revell, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and Tim Roberts for sharing the interviewing with me. I am now pleased to introduce the successful candidate: [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] will take over from [REDACTED] as Parish Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer on 1 July, and will bring a wealth of experience gained on other Councils to the role, including as Assistant Town Clerk at Aldeburgh Town Council.

One of the objectives that we have set for [REDACTED] is to achieve Quality Council Status for Kelsale-cum-Carlton in 2011 which is an aspiration we have held for several years. We are also intending to purchase some new play equipment for the Recreation Ground for the first time for a number of years.

Finally, we have just received the go-ahead from Suffolk Coastal District Council to increase the number of Parish Councillors by two. We now have several vacancies for new councillors so please contact me or the clerk if you would like to join us!

Annual Parish Meeting 2011 Reports

Parish Council Chairman's Report

I would like firstly on behalf of all in the Parish to thank Cllr Keith Dickerson for all his hard work and professionalism over the past four years in the chair of the Parish Council. In that time he has steered us to what is in my opinion a Council you can have confidence in and to be proud of. I worry the ship may not be in as safer hands now.

As a result of the recent elections we have three new councillors who I welcome most warmly to the Parish Council. They are Cllr's [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and Edwina Galloway. All three have already taken on portfolio responsibilities. It is good that the gender balance has been somewhat improved within the Council.

This has been our new Clerks first year in office. I would like to thank [REDACTED] for the efficient and professional way she undertaken her duties especially in the preparation of accounts. I can assure you that the ship **is!** in safe hands in that department.

During the last year the youth club has gone from strength to strength now with attendance's of sometimes thirty plus. Many thanks for the hard work by all involved in this great success.

We are nearing the completion of the recreation ground play area refurbishment. This is being paid for from Suffolk Coastal District Councils Section 106 Play Space Fund to the sum of five thousand and fourty four pounds. Again I thank the team that have engineered the project and made it happen.

Your parish magazine The New Oasis just gets better and better, with articles that are interesting, informative, humorous and sometimes challenging. As more material from different quarters seems to be submitted for inclusion every issue perhaps editor [REDACTED] may have to consider more page's in the not to distant future.

We have purchased four additional grit bins which are to be sited in Bridge Street car park, Clays Hill Bridge, Church Close and the Carlton Road A12 junction. These I am sure will be of great benefit to the parish next winter.

Last year's Bonfire Party event was the most successful ever thanks to all the many volunteer helpers and the fantastic turn out of generous attendees. Over three thousand three hundred pounds was raised on the night meaning one thousand two hundred and twenty pounds could be distributed to local organizations. As for this year we aim to make it even better so put November the 5th in your diaries for a fantastic family night out.

We are nearing the end of the second year of a three year programme to update the parish street lighting. Two thirds of the lighting stock will have been replaced with energy efficient units controlled by part night photo electric cells by then.

Cllr Tim Roberts the Parish Emergency Officer has put many hours work into preparing the emergency plan over the past year. Many of the components are now in place and documented but there is still a lot to do before completion of this complex task.

Your Tree Warden Cllr [REDACTED] after much toil has completed the parish hedgerow survey which will be published in the near future. I am told his knees will never be the same again.

Finally many of the Aims and Objectives we set ourselves for 2010-2011 have been accomplished, the remainder being work in progress will be carried forward to the 2011-2012 list we are about to compile. These include, Improvement works to the recreation ground fencing and entrance, To seek Quality Parish Council Status, Finalization of the Emergency Plan and Repairs to the Lych Gate.

Annual Parish Meeting 2012 Reports

Parish Council Chairman's Report

This year the Parish Council has carried out improvements to both the Bridge Street recreation ground and the Carlton Road play area. These improvements were funded from Suffolk Coastal District Council's Section 106 payments, a COIF fund and a very generous public donation.

After the May 2011 elections the Parish Council had a vacancy arise and I am pleased to announce that Cllr [REDACTED] was successfully co-opted by the parish council.

The Parish Council held another fantastic bonfire event which I am sure was enjoyed by all that attended.

A very exciting piece of news was that Kelsale-cum-Carlton were selected to be a community on route for the 2012 Olympic Torch Relay celebration which again I am sure will be a lifetime opportunity for the residents of Kelsale-cum-Carlton to enjoy.

Cllr [REDACTED] carried out an in-depth study of the condition of the river Fromus which is now being acted upon by the Parish Council.

Another big achievement for Kelsale-cum-Carlton Parish Council this year has been the awarding of over £60,000 for community energy projects ([REDACTED] to produce a paragraph).

Funding has now been received from our County Councilors locality budget to purchase a new gazebo and 3 further dog bins. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank county Cllr [REDACTED] for this generous donation.

Finally I am pleased to advise that the Wednesday morning council surgeries are encouraging people to come along and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and are seen as an opportunity to air any concerns or views.

Village Hall Report 2012

Over the past year the Village Hall has continued to provide a venue for Village activities.

As well as the regular clubs and societies which use the Hall, the Village Hall Committee has organised a number of events both as fund raising opportunities and as entertainment.

Years Events - We started our year with a Music Night in April, followed by the Open Gardens Event at the end of May, the proceeds of which were divided between the Hall and the Lych Gate Appeal. The Quiz Night followed in September with an Autumn Fair in November and a Performance of "A Christmas Carol" in December. The years events were rounded off with our Jumble Sale in March.

New Users - We have two new regular users this year, the Line Dancing Group and the Yoga Class. Both groups have become established and we hope to see them continue.

Re-Decoration - We had a working party in May to repaint the upstairs kitchen. Our thanks to [REDACTED] for her sterling work. The kitchen now looks clean and fresh. This March we started a major exterior decoration and improvements to the guttering. Thanks to the good weather the work was completed quickly and we feel greatly this greatly improves the appearance of the Hall.

Regular Users - Finally I would like to make an appeal. All regular clubs and societies who use the Hall are entitled to send a representative to Village Hall Committee Meetings. These are held on the second Monday of each month at 7.30 in the committee room. Please come along and take part. If you want to know more contact me or any member of the committee.

Annual Parish Meeting 2016 Reports

Parish Council Acting Chairman's Report

2015 saw Parish Council Elections and sadly both long standing former Councillors [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] decided not to stand for re-election.

As a result of these elections the Parish Council gained some new members being David Baker, Ray Ellis, and John Pulham.

Sadly, also in 2015 former Chairman [REDACTED] tendered his resignation and this is when I stepped in as Vice Chairman to take on the role as Temporary Acting Chairman. As a result of [REDACTED] resignation a Co-option has recently been held and I am pleased to announce that [REDACTED] from Curlew Green was successfully Co-opted.

Just recently long standing Cllr [REDACTED] has unfortunately had to also tender his resignation and it has been confirmed that this vacancy can also be filled by the means of a Co-option at a future meeting.

- Vehicle Activated Speed Sign – It has been agreed that the PC will purchase a sign and this will be sited alternatively within 3 locations within the Parish. Thanks to County Cllr [REDACTED] and District Cllr [REDACTED] for their kind donations.
- Successful 2015 Bonfire Event
- Queens Fete – 11th June 2016
- Defibrillator and replacement Red Telephone Kiosk – Thank you to all those who kindly donated towards this project. Successful Awareness Event held in VH.
- Broadband now successfully installed within the Village Hall
- PC registered the land at the Village Hall and outside the Committee Room with the Land Registry. Thanks to Cllr [REDACTED] for all his hard work and also to members of the VHMC for their assistance.
- Basketball Net has been purchased and will hopefully be installed within the Recreation Ground soon
- Another busy year for the Planning Group with some applications being approved by SCDC despite objections being made from the Planning Group.
- PC has been invited to attend a meeting at Saxmundham Town Hall to consider being part of Saxmundham's proposed Neighbourhood Plan. More details regarding this matter will be available as this project progresses and volunteers will be required to assist if Kelsale are to be part of this project.

Thanks to Clerk and all Councillors for their hard work.

Annual Parish Meeting 2017 Reports

Parish Council Chairman's Report

It has been another busy year for the Parish Council. Unfortunately, there have been two resignations this year being [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. As a result of these vacancies and also that from [REDACTED] I am pleased to advise the Parish Council has co-opted three new members being Cllr Claire Buttle, Cllr Martin Lumb and Cllr Chris Burslem. These 3 individuals have already taken on portfolios and I wish to thank them for their contributions to date.

- Vehicle Activated Speed Sign – This has now been sited and will rotate between 3 locations within the Parish. Thanks to County Cllr [REDACTED] and District Cllr [REDACTED] for their kind donations.
- Successful 2016 Bonfire Event and due to the imminent resignation from Cllr [REDACTED] due to her relocating this year's event will be co-ordinated by Cllr Claire Buttle. Thanks to [REDACTED] not only for co-ordinating this event but for all her hard work carried out as Vice Chairman and Councillor. **[REDACTED] to present [REDACTED] with Flowers.**
- Another busy year for the Planning Group with some applications being approved by SCDC despite objections being made from the Planning Group.
- Conservation Area – Thanks to Cllr Galloway for all her hard work carried out on this matter. The Parish Council would like to thank all the residents that responded to the recent Consultation in respect of a potential Conservation area. As a consequence of the views of the majority of residents a vote was taken at the meeting of the 25th January 2017 to ask Suffolk Coastal District Council (SCDC) to undertake a Second Consultation.

Prior to a Second Consultation commencing SCDC will commission the production of a draft Conservation area appraisal, expanded from the initial appraisal which would then go out to public consultation. The results of which would be taken into account. There may also be a manned public exhibition. If the public response is positive overall, the draft would be amended *and alterations made in the light of the comments received. A report recommending adoption of a Kelsale-cum-Carlton Conservation Area would be prepared and presented to the cabinets/planning committee.* If approved it would be advertised in the London Gazette and the Conservation Area would be designated"

- Parking at Kelsale Primary School – The Parish Council has been assisting the primary school at looking into possible solutions to improve parking at the school during drop off and pick up times and this is ongoing.
- The Parish Council responded to the 2nd Stage of the Sizewell C Consultation and on behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank local resident [REDACTED] for his assistance in compiling this response.

Kelsale-cum-Carlton Parish Council have been considering compiling a Neighbourhood Plan:-

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

A Neighbourhood Plan sets out policies in relation to the development and protection of land within the Parish. The Kelsale-cum-Carlton Neighbourhood Plan will be a very important document which the government will consider in all planning decisions in the parish. The NP must be drafted by local people who are recognised as representatives of the community, and if it is approved by a referendum in the Parish, it is expected to shape planning decisions - along with the SCDC Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan provides an opportunity for local people to have a say in what to protect and where to build in their parish over the long term.

Although it is not intended to be overly restrictive, a Neighbourhood Plan is a very comprehensive document. It contains a full survey of community assets and needs - from affordable housing to protecting the natural environment - and sets out the policies and projects that will define how the parish changes in the coming years. This vision will be very important for the community, Suffolk Coastal District Council and developers, among many other interested parties.

The Parish Council are looking to create a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and this will require volunteers. If you are interested in joining this Steering Group it would be much appreciated and could I please ask you to provide our Clerk [REDACTED] with your contact details at the end of this meeting.

Thanks to Clerk and all Councillors for their hard work.

REPORT FOR ST MARY & ST PETER, KELSALE

Church and Churchyard Maintenance – We are hoping to get the damaged creature on top of the church tower repaired. This has been in a bad state of repair for a few years, and we are in the process of trying to get a grant to get it fixed. We also have to fund maintenance work in the church and churchyard on an ongoing basis. The churchyard maintenance policy, which is on display inside the church, is the basis for such regular work in the churchyard.

Toilet and Kitchenette – Plans for the provision of a toilet and kitchenette in Church have been put on hold until we can get enough funds in place to cover the development costs of this project, estimated to be in the region of £5-6,000.00. We have a small display in Church showing our proposals.

Flower Festival – We held our annual Flower Festival over the May Spring Bank Holiday weekend, with the theme ‘Women of the Bible’. The arrangements were backed up with a short text explaining a bit about each of the women portrayed, and all the visitors seemed to enjoy the experience. We also offered cream teas for sale each afternoon, and had a craft stall and small art exhibition. This event each year heralds the start of our annual fund-raising at the church.

Concerts / Other fund-raising – We held three fund-raising concerts in Church last year. Shortly before the start of the first one, we had a major electrical fault and had to move the artists from the east to the west end of the church so that they could see their music by natural light! The audience joined in the fun and helped. The rest of the evening, and both the other two concerts passed without a hitch, and were all much enjoyed by the audiences. We also have our annual Harvest Supper in the Village Hall each autumn, which is open to anyone who wants to attend.

Messy Church – We hold our Messy Church sessions for young families in the Village Hall every two months; this gives families the opportunity to have fun with crafts, enjoy a story time (based on a Bible story), finishing with a hot meal. Until we have the appropriate facilities available in Church, we will continue to use the Village Hall for these sessions.

Calendar – Unfortunately we didn't manage to get out a Church calendar for 2018 but intend doing so for 2019. We also hope to have some postcards on sale before the end of the year.

Contact Magazine – This bi-monthly church magazine, which was printed for free by a member of Saxmundham's congregation, was withdrawn in the middle of 2017 because the ancient printing machine failed. Within a couple of months of this, it was apparent that Kelsale cum Carlton village needed something to be published giving service times and a notice of upcoming events, and so a short leaflet has been put together, again on a bi-monthly basis, and those who delivered the Contact magazine all kindly agreed to deliver this newsletter as well. This will continue until such time as an alternative form of disseminating information can be found. If anyone in the village is not getting a copy of this newsletter, please let someone from the church know and we will try to ensure that is rectified. Copies are left in church, and a copy is also put on the church noticeboard in the village.

Annual Parish Meeting 2018 Reports

Parish Council Chairman's Report

It has been another busy year for the Parish Council. One vacancy still remains on the PC due to the resignation of Cllr [REDACTED].

- Successful 2017 Bonfire Event and would like to thank Cllr Claire Buttle for all her hard work masterminding this event.
- Another busy year for the Planning Group. PC have recently adopted a Planning Procedure Policy.
- PC renewed the lease for the Low Rd Car Park
- Resurfacing of the Low Rd Car Park. Cycle Racks.
- Wonderful Remembrance Sunday Event – Enjoyed by all and delicious refreshments. Thanks to all those that contributed.
- Ongoing issues at Carlton Meres.
- New Parish Council website
- Biodiversity Action Group now been formed. Contact Cllr Keith Dickerson if you are interested in joining this group.

Kelsale-cum-Carlton Parish Council are implementing a Neighbourhood Plan:- A Steering Group has been formed and meetings are held on the Wednesday prior to the PC meeting each month. If you would like to join the NP Steering Group please contact the Clerk, [REDACTED] leaving the PC after 9 years. Liz Flight joining. Thanks to Clerk and all Councillors for their hard work.

Village Hall Management Committee's Report

Introduction:

Kelsale Village Hall Management Committee is made up from representatives of the various regular user groups of the facilities in the building. Our new Treasurer, [REDACTED], took over from [REDACTED] at the AGM 2017. [REDACTED] has continued to fulfil the role of Bookings Secretary. There are now 6 Trustees: [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. There are also three other members: [REDACTED]. There is no Chairman or Secretary, although [REDACTED] takes the Minutes of meetings and [REDACTED] chairs the meetings. [REDACTED] is the Promoter of the 100 Club which continues to be successful with a membership of 107. In 2018, [REDACTED] took over the running of the 100 Club and once again there are over 100 tickets allocated. On Wednesday mornings, we continue to host the Post Office; the Parish Council often have a representative to hear residents' queries; coffee mornings are every Wednesday and Friday and there is a successful village Market Stall each month – Wednesdays are usually buzzing with people coming in to make use of these facilities.

Events:

The events put on during the year were as follows:

1. A Film Night with archive film shown by [REDACTED];
2. A talk about The Wildlife of Kelsale and a series of 3 seasonal wildlife walks starting from the car park, recording observations about plants, birds, butterflies etc seen on the route - these have been continued this year;
3. The Quiz Night in October was a fun and very successful event and there were calls for it to be repeated again in the coming year.

Repairs and Improvements:

The primary focus for the year has been the application for a grant to fund the upgrade of the lighting and heating in the Hall and Committee Room. This led to a sum of £2000 being awarded by the EDF locality fund which was supplemented by money from KVH funds in order to replace some switches and the heaters in the Main Hall and all light fittings in the Hall, Committee Room and on the entrances and stairways, with low energy LED lamps. This was finally completed in November 2017. This should help reduce our electricity bills in the coming year.

Following the success of the trial leaflets produced last year, new leaflets about the Village Hall were designed and printed at Leiston Press. They were put out in the dispensers for people to take away for reference.

The purchase of a support frame for the unisex toilet by the Committee Room has been a success.

The KVHMC regular meetings have been changed to the evenings of the first Wednesday of the month in order to facilitate new regular class bookings.

New red and gold upholstered chairs have been given by the Parish Council for use in the Main Hall. The cost was covered by a grant from Suffolk Coastal District Council by District Councillor Phillip Dunnett's locality fund. The old plastic chairs were offered locally for

collection and they were taken and used by Kelsale Parish Council, Saxmundham Scout Group, a company in Debach, a pub/church hall near Woodbridge and Saxmundham Library. Most gave donations to our funds for their chairs.

very kindly adjusted the coin meters in the Hall to accept the new-style £1 coins and also adjusted the rate to bring payments back to the correct cost to users. They had been undercharging for some time.

A Bookings Diary for the Hall and Committee Room was trialled for the year but it proved to be too burdensome for the Bookings Secretary to maintain it up to date as there are constant changes by users.

There was a scare when one group using the Hall left a gas tap turned slightly on and an electric hob as well. The gas leaked out and there was the potential for an explosion – all users were therefore reminded that they must always check and turn off everything before locking up.

and offered to help us by taking on the weeding and maintenance of the forecourt. Such voluntary help is invaluable and we should consider whether this is something which could be used for other maintenance jobs around the building. The water heater in the Committee Room kitchen failed totally and had to be replaced like for like just before Christmas.

The future for 2018 – 2019:

There are various repairs to the fabric of the building which need attention fairly soon but we will have to tackle them as and when our funds improve this coming year. The trial of reducing the number of Committee meetings will have to be looked at as gaps of 2 or 3 months between meetings is too long. We need to have more fund raising events to top up our funds – fresh ideas are welcome!

Finally:

It is important that we try to get more help with the running of the Village Hall, so if anyone can offer to take on a job which will help out such as – taking care of the pots on the forecourt; taking on the publicity for events and making sure that advertisements go out in good time to the local Press – we would be delighted to speak to you and you can let us know what you can do to help.

05/04/2018

Melody Makers Report

The Melody Makers singing group continues to sing despite some setbacks we have had in the past year. We stopped singing in the Village Hall for a short period last autumn due to transport problems for our members from Saxmundham; However these have now been resolved (we've found a friendly taxi firm) and we are back again.

We sing melodies, folk songs and show tunes and of-course Carols at Christmas time.

We meet every Monday Night at 7.30 in the Village Hall Committee Room and sing until 9.00.

Over the past year we have sung for the Forget-Me-Not Group here in the Village Hall, The Wardens Centre in Sizewell and Age Concern at the Fairfield Centre in Aldeburgh plus the Carol Concert at Christmas.

Our numbers have remained about the same as last year with a few new faces and a few retirements but we are always pleased to see new member, so if you enjoy having a good sing please come along, you would be most welcome.

██████████ 18/4/18

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ██████████, MVO

Blything Division covers the town of Saxmundham and the parishes of Blythburgh, Bramfield, Darsham, Dunwich, Kelsale-cum-Carlton, Middleton, Theberton, Thorington, Walberswick, Wenhaston, Westleton and Yoxford

I have served as a Suffolk County Councillor since 2010. For the first seven years I represented Aldeburgh, Leiston, Knodishall, Aldringham and Thorpeness, but took the opportunity presented by Michael Gower deciding to step down in Blything to move and stand as a candidate here in the May 2017 County Council elections. I worked hard during the election campaign and was pleased and honoured to be elected as your County Councillor.

My reasoning for moving Divisions included wanting to live within the area that I represent and, being a resident of Saxmundham for the last 27 years, I have achieved that. But to be frank the disadvantage has been the greatly increased number of parishes I now represent – rising from four to twelve, if Dunwich Parish Meeting is included as it should be.

I have been fortunate to be a member of the County Council's Cabinet, first responsible for planning, environmental and economic development and more lately having political responsibility for finance (which encompasses a net annual budget of around half a billion Pounds), first combined with responsibilities for arts, museums and library services, but now combined with transformation of the way the council delivers its services, and also since last May for the Sizewell C Project.

I hope you will understand that this workload keeps me busy – for perhaps 70 hours each week – and thus I have not been as frequent a visitor to Parish Council meetings as I should wish. I am trying to settle down to an attendance at every other parish meeting, but even this can prove difficult. Examples include Middleton, Darsham and Blythburgh Parish Councils usually meeting on the same evening and the same applies to Saxmundham Town Council, Bramfield-with-Thorington Parish and Walberswick Parish also meeting on the same evening each month.

But I do attend where I can and my contact details are widely available. Indeed I am contacted by constituents throughout the area when they need my help or advice and I always follow-up their issues, some with greater success than others. Planning matters are not my responsibility, save the highways aspects of larger developments, and I try to direct these to their Suffolk Coastal District Councillor. This has proved difficult in the last few months with the severe illness of Cllr ██████████ who covers the northern part of the area, and recently ██████████ has resigned his seat representing Theberton and Middleton. A by-election will be held in due course. Yoxford has Cllr ██████████ as its District Councillor, and he is just completing a particularly busy year as Chairman of the County Council. In normal times I pledge to work closely with all three District Councillors for the best interests and outcomes for our residents.

I have a Locality Budget of £8,000 which can be spent largely as I wish within my Division. I have been happy to make grants (or offers which will be honoured) over the last year to organisations within Saxmundham, Bramfield, Darsham, Kelsale-cum-Carlton, Theberton, Thorington and Wenhaston. Over the course of my four-year elected term I aim to have distributed funds as fairly and proportionately as I can manage across all areas of the Division, but this can be achieved only in part in just one year.

I am well aware of complaints from Parish Councils about highway matters. I always ask Parishes to lodge their complaints first; my job is to follow them up when there appears to have been no action. This is a difficult area for me, as I understand very well the financial constraints on the highways budget in a time of severely restricted local government spending. The severe winter we have experienced has meant spending £1 million more on salt and grit for the roads than estimated. So money is very tight and priority has to be given to filling the 10,000 or so pot-holes reported after the bad weather. Other schemes have had to be delayed and, where luckily they have not, such as drainage works within Yoxford, other controversies about traffic management and parking arise. In most cases I listen to and take the advice of Council Officers – but not always. The footpath from Yoxford towards Darsham railway station had become seriously overgrown, but no action was deemed necessary. I challenged this at the very highest level with the result that the assessment was changed and the necessary work was done. Alas, I cannot do this in all cases! I also understand well that two of my parishes need a Highways Officer to walk round the village to discuss and give advice on a range of highways problems. I had tried to arrange this, and had spoken to a person who had agreed to meet villagers, but postponement has been necessary with the sudden death of that very Officer who has died young, leaving behind a very young family. I am also aware of the problem of speeding motorists, something not easily tackled. Community Speed-Watch teams operate in various villages and do a good job. Vehicle-activated speed signs are now commonplace and are effective to some degree as long as they are moved around every three or four weeks. But new deterrents are necessary, and a trial period using Automatic Number-Plate Recognition Cameras is underway within the County and will report its results later in the year. But the problem remains that the data gathered requires access to the police main computer database, and this has to be done under strict conditions by approved people, who are usually police employees – and the police budget is as stretched as ours! Yet other parishes are awaiting approval of or implementation of schemes which have been drawn-up over recent years. Most will be done eventually as funds allow, but there has to be a strict regime of prioritisation in place when money is scarce, and many of you will have read that some of Suffolk's bridges need urgent attention – so this prioritisation is very necessary to keep the whole road network safely usable.

I want to end with a brief update on Sizewell C matters. In brief, nothing very much has happened since EDF Energy reported-back (very inadequately, I thought) on the results of the Stage Two Consultation. The final consultation, Stage Three, is promised for the end of this year or very early next, before the District Council and Parish Council elections in May, 2019. I hope it will contain meaningful items, because I (and I believe the community) have been somewhat underwhelmed by both previous stages of public consultation. Huge questions remain about the effect on our precious natural environment, traffic routes and lorry numbers, the effect on coastal processes and many other important matters including the modal split giving the split between sea, road and rail use in transporting goods to site. EDF have been giving contradictory messages about the reality of a Sizewell C development, and have lately said that this is the 'crunch' year for a decision. What we do know is that they want our development to come in 20% cheaper than that at Hinkley Point in Somerset, now being developed. The corollary of this is that community benefits will also have to be cut by 20%, not a welcome prospect for our communities who will be so directly affected for the ten-plus years of local development activity and all that goes with it.

I am not, and never have been, anti-nuclear power, but this is the only such development in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, encompassing very sensitive wildlife and landscapes, including the world-class RSPB Minsmere Reserve and the National Trust's Dunwich Heath. We really must protect them and ensure that the quality of life throughout our area remains of the highest quality. I will not fail the residents I represent and will fight for the fairest and best deal for our communities if the development proceeds.

May I place on record my thanks to Parish Councillors for welcoming me and for working alongside me. That thanks also needs to be extended to Town and Parish Clerks with all of whom, I think, I have a good working relationship. It is an honour to represent the people of Blything Division. I have worked hard doing so since last May and will continue to do so in future years.

██████████, MVO

REPORT FROM ██████████ – HEADTEACHER KELSEA CEVCP School

Another successful year has passed and Kelsale School continues to grow and to thrive.

We were inspected by Ofsted in May 2017 and were rated as GOOD. The report was very positive and I was delighted at how well the inspector captured the ethos of the school in the day she was with us. Last year results were excellent with our year 6 results well above national and county; within top 25% nationally and top 20% Suffolk for reading and maths. Unfortunately they came after the inspection!

Staffing is quite stable; we have a very strong and close team with a range of skills and expertise, producing outstanding teaching. ██████████ and ██████████ left last Summer and we employed the 2 trainee teachers who trained with us last academic year – ██████████ and ██████████.

The roll has continued to rise. This time last year it was 142 and today is 156. We have 4 full year groups and just 12 spaces to capacity. We are expecting the roll to be 161 in September, but expect that to rise. We have draft plans for another additional classroom for September 2019, which will bring our capacity to 200. As we have grown, parking has become an issue; we are looking at solutions, meanwhile I apologise to our neighbours.

Teaching and learning at the school is at least good, with much now outstanding. Pupils at Kelsale enjoy school, have excellent learning behaviours and a wide range of experiences;

- Pupils experience a range of sports within routine lessons and enjoy competition. Our sports teams have done exceptionally well again this year
- They experience a range of athletics; running, high jump, hurdles, discus, javelin, shot put.... Much of this equipment has been purchased with help from donations from the Parish Council.
- We have given pupils taster sessions of some more unusual sports: golf, fencing, archery, cheerleading,
- Pupils in classes 5 and 6 have Yoga lessons, which teaches relaxation and more
- Most pupils leave Kelsale confident in the water, many capable of swimming a range of strokes confidently.

We have refurbished our swimming pool with funds raised by The Friends, Governors, Parish Council and District Councillor's Enabling Community Budgets. We are really appreciative of these donations. Thank you.

We hosted a Country Dancing event, attended by more than 250 pupils from local schools. Pupils are taught to ride their bikes safely on the road. They participate in Wake 'n Shake every day.

We enjoy strong links with the community. Pupils enjoy participating in for services throughout the school year, some at the church and others here at school. Following a Harvest service in school pupils packed and delivered over 90 food parcels to local elderly residents. Pensioner lunches continue to be well attended each month.

We have had numerous visitors to school to enhance learning; Owls, French Café, musician from AVA, a panto from Essex and Suffolk Water called 'Super Splash Heroes,' a performance of 'The Secret Garden' by Spinning Wheel Theatre and visitors from different faiths.

Pupils have enjoyed school trips; KS1 pupils visited Easton Farm Park, KS2 pupils enjoyed a day at Duxford and all pupils visited Pipers Vale Gym in Ipswich

We have special days in school, when parents are encouraged to join in the activities; Guy Making, Christmas Decoration Day and Egg Decoration Days.

We have 3 performances each year in order for every child to have the opportunity to be on stage; Classes 5 and 6 performed Mystery at Magpie Manor last summer, classes One and Two performed 'Baubles' at Christmas and Classes 3 and 4 recently performed 'Oink'. In addition, pupils have performed at two county music productions.

The Friends have raised another £4000 this year. They have provided us with partial funding for the swimming pool refurbishment and a new adventure play area as well as supporting trips and visits financially. Thank you to [REDACTED] and her team.

In summary, we have had an amazing year. Kelsale School is thriving in every sense. Pupils feel safe and secure, are happy, feel valued and understood and enjoy attending. We place strong importance on developing personal skills, in order to prepare pupils to be 'good' and successful citizens. Pupils (and staff) are resilient and eager to learn. My staff are truly amazing outstanding practitioners; caring, highly motivated, hard-working and constantly striving to be the best they can.

[REDACTED] Headteacher - April 2018