

## **BREDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL: CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2012**

Welcome everybody to the 2013 Bredfield Annual Parish Meeting. Thank you very much for supporting your Parish Council.

### **MEETINGS:**

We have continued to meet regularly on the last Monday of the month in the Church Room. We are always grateful for the regular attendance of our District and County Council member Mr Peter Bellfield who juggles the many demands on his time in order to be able to keep us informed of the activities of both councils on which he represents our parish. Our thanks also go to our local police, who are not always able to attend council meetings but have maintained contact with us through regular reports.

In the last year there have been a few issues which have prompted many more people to attend some parish council meetings but unfortunately it is only a handful who come along regularly. I must make my annual reminder that each agenda includes an opportunity for any parishioner to raise a point on any subject concerning Bredfield. So there is no excuse not to come along and contribute.

Two national events were celebrated this year. The Queen's silver jubilee and the Olympic games. The Parish council commissioned celebratory jubilee mugs to be given to all young people in the village.

We also supported the excellent party at the village hall planned to coincide with the opening of the games in London. We thank all those involved in this event and in particular Hasina, Anne and their A team. Can we do it again?

### **FINANCE:**

Our accounts are available at this meeting if you wish to see the detail of how the precept was spent this year. As I am sure you can all appreciate the parish council has experienced the same rise in costs with which we have all had to cope. Nevertheless we have undertaken a number of projects this year and trust that you will appreciate that we have tried to support the community.

### **HIGHWAYS:**

Last year I was able to report on the relatively major maintenance work done to the highway through the village but unfortunately it now seems far more difficult to get any repair work carried out. We are pleased that Cllr Leyland maintains his close and regular contact with the local highways agency personnel and he does his best to convince them when work needs to be carried out. It seems that the British Standard is always increasing for holes that require filling! We continue to make every effort we can to reduce HGV traffic through the village

### **WAR MEMORIAL:**

Last year I reported that work was shortly to be carried out to restore the village War Memorial. This was literally about to commence when the Church authorities announced that special permission and approval from them was needed (together with a fee of course!). This resulted in delay and the builder deciding he did not want to play any more! Unfortunately we have been unable to pick up all the pieces but we are very near to having the monument cleaned and the lettering re-cut. I will not tempt providence this time and will not suggest when it might be done!

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:**

During the year the council has addressed a number of issues which have been of considerable significance to residents.

The first was the option to purchase a piece of the last glebe land left in the village. This led to much consultation and discussion at special meetings before it was decided to proceed with the project. Most of you will be familiar with the process so far but it seems that the solicitors have billed us for as much as they can justify and we are assured completion is imminent! I cannot move on from this item without paying particular tribute to Karen Bowe who, acting as Parish Clerk and as an enthusiastic resident, has almost singlehandedly encouraged outside donations sufficient to complete this purchase. The whole village is indeed very fortunate to have her on our side and I appeal to you all to build upon this amazing start and help with the further fund raising which is needed to see the project continue.

The second was of course the impact of the proposal to build a new generation facility at Sizewell. We were able to arrange not one but two presentations at the village hall. These were both well attended and impressed the consultation team from EDF. The recent feedback from this stage of consultation made particular mention of the weight of opinion from Bredfield and the impression given is that the option of the park and ride at "Potash Corner" is not favoured. I will give a more detailed précis of the feedback given after this report.

#### AND FINALLY:

Your Parish Council is an elected group of people who aim to act in a fair and honest way to represent the best interests of our community. We are a tier, albeit fairly low, of the government of the land and are restricted and supported in what we can and can't do by law. It is a requirement that our business is conducted in public. Over this year I feel that the council and I have attracted some unjustified criticism often based on an assumption that we have not considered particular views. NONE of our discussion is carried out behind closed doors so I would urge you all to come along to the regular council meetings to witness the balance we try to ensure in our deliberations. We are always willing to take advice if you have particular information or insight on issues ranging from planning to broadband.

Andrew Miller  
Chairman, Bredfield Parish Council