

Boyton Parish Council: Chairman's Report 2021-2

Introduction:

As our last Annual Parish Meeting was via Zoom, the first point is to say how good it is to be back and meeting in person. Though COVID has not gone away and there are certainly other macro events in play now too, it is good to have some semblance of normality back.

Budget 2021-2:

The parish council's budget for the year was £4,104.

This year we have received a grant of £79.84 for a new grit bin for the village and the conclusion of the wildlife pond project will give the receipt of a further grant sum of £1,800.

As we still have the special payment of £10,000 from East Suffolk Council as part of a government support scheme for smaller communities last year, we have a sum of money available to benefit the parish. Hopefully the APM will bring some good ideas that will benefit the village. Some new marquees have been mooted.

Main Council Activities:

Parish Council Changes:

Firstly, I would like to thank John Pilgrim for all his hard work. He was the Chair of the Council for the majority of the year and steered through a lot of the items and successes.

Secondly, thank you to the rest of our councillors, new and experienced, along with Jenny our clerk.

We have had an exciting year of councillor changes and for the first time since 2017 we have had a full council of six for a time, and hopefully will be back up to that again soon.

We had Jasper Pryor for a short tenure of 7 months before he took up a new job farther afield and have Andrew and Jane who have come onboard during the year.

Vacancy:

With John's departure, we will have the remaining seat available for election/co-option at the next meeting.

Consultations:

We have submitted responses to a number of consultations this year:

- Suffolk County Council Lorry route review
- Cycling and walking strategy
- Coastal Path
- Community Governance Review
- East Suffolk Planning Policy
- Consultation on Council Tax
- Tunstall and Rendlesham Forest - 10 year plan, though this is being amended after a number of responses about the plan.

District Meetings:

As well as the regular council meetings, our councillors have also attended the following meetings within the district:

- Melton, Woodbridge and Deben Peninsula Community Partnership
- Alde and Ore Community Partnership
- Deben Parish Meeting

Boyton Events:

Though I understand we are still down on the number of events of old, we have had a few and have the upcoming Jubilee to look forward to.

The highlight likely has to be the fireworks' display which had a great turn out and an interesting twist with sustainable fireworks. Given the thunder coming from neighbouring parishes, I think we may be first adopters on that front!

We have continued with litter picks, both via beachwatch and the village walks, with thanks to Boyton Hall for the access to the beach.

The latest event was the Treebilee Oak planting at the Mary Warner Trust this past weekend, so a thank you to them for allowing the tree to be located there and for hosting the refreshments afterwards.

Other items:

Village Hall:

We have been continuing to discuss the future management / ownership of the church/village hall with the diocese. The latest meeting outcome was that the diocese would not be able to sell at below the market level, which has been valued from £140,000 up to £250,000 with planning permission.

As this was decided to be beyond the means of the BPC, we are now following up on the most practical option of a lease, with the ability to apply for grants for upkeep via this route.

Quiet Lanes:

Andy Cassy continues his hard work towards the introduction of quiet lanes in the wider county, and the two proposed for Boyton are moving forward.

RSPB Boyton Expansion:

The RSPB have expanded the reserve on the marshes. They will not be increasing promotion of the site, but will be adding new signage as has been requested by the PC.

Wildlife Ponds:

Led by John Pilgrim, a wildlife pond network has been established in the village with aid of an AOBN Amenity and Accessibility Fund Grant. We now have four new ponds helping to improve the conservation of aquatic plants and animals.