

Boyton Parish Council: Chairman's Report 2022-3

Introduction:

This time last year I opened to say how good it was to be back and in person, rather than Zoom. I think it was with a bit of trepidation, given we were all still a bit unsure of the trajectory we were heading in. That said we've had a full twelve months under our belt, under this roof, so back to normal...new normal.

Budget 2022 – 3:

The parish council's budget for the year was the precept of £4,120.

In addition to that, we had receipt of the £1,800 grant from the conclusion of the wildlife pond project and the £10,000 from East Suffolk Council as part of a government support scheme for smaller communities.

I'm pleased to say that thanks to these funds we have been able to secure several new assets of the village.

The first in the form of 4 new marquees. These have had a few good outings already and thanks must go to Richard Jesty for the procurement process.

The second is the new home for the marquees: a new shed. Again, the spec-ing is down to Richard's hard work. We have secured a provider and have submitted the planning application to enable the update from the old, dilapidated building. Frustrating that we need planning for the replacement but hopefully friend of the village, our newly elected councillor James Mallinder, will be able to poke the planning department if required, and we can give the Lilly's back the use of their loft. Thank you to them too.

We end the year with a sound level of reserves, some of which we may need to make available for legal costs related to the Village Hall and we still have the village sign to re paint.

As always, requests are welcome: parish council funds are available to projects that benefit the community.

Main Council Activities:

Parish Council Changes:

Firstly, thank you to my fellow councillors, new and experienced, along with Jenny our clerk.

Yet again, we have had an exciting year of councillor changes, but I can't say that we have hit the full council of 6 at any point this year.

We started this time last year with 5 councillors, then lost one in January.

Thank you to Jane Morter for her help through 2022.

We also gained in January with the addition of Mark Pryor, now our resident Village Hall Committee Chair, of which more shortly. I'm not sure he knew what he was taking on when he signed up....

This year was an election year and Andrew Cassey, after many years of service has decided to retire. As his email moniker states, he is a true Boyton Boy and has given sage advice through his several tenures and championed a number of projects. The highest profile, I think, being the Quiet Lanes that now criss-cross the country and for our area are in a large part a result of his hard work.

We've also lost Andrew Greenwell, I hope only temporarily due to election timing, due to a new baby and him running across the Sahara desert last month.

Unfortunately, I also must thank our Clerk, Jenny, for her time and commitment to the Parish Council. She has announced her intention to retire. We'll miss her passion and absolute commitment to the community. Thank you Jenny.

Vacancy:

On account of the changes I've noted, there are now 3 councillor seats available for co-option at the next meeting. If you want to know more about what it means to be a councillor, please grab Jenny before she retires, or ask Richard, Mark or I.

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:

We still haven't hit the events schedule of old, but we have had a few this year, bolstered in number, thanks to the Jubilee and the Coronation.

And, with all that is going on with the hall, this will hopefully be a different section next year!

Bonfire's night was again a success, though I write this having been away at the time....

The fete was a personal highlight, mainly because of how badly behaved my dog was in the show! Litter picks have been light on the ground... I'm happy to take that on board, but perhaps we can purchase the tools to enable more informal or ad hoc picks. I know we do so periodically.

Other items:

Quiet Lanes:

I circle back to Andy Cassy. A huge chapeau to him as we now have the two new routes through the village. Whilst there may have been a bit of debate about the signage, I think the result is great.

Lastly and given the interest, certainly not least, the ***Village Hall:***

We now have a group of villagers working on the project.

It has been a subject that has been raised and dropped a few times over the years, but like the phoenix has risen again.

This time, a lot in part to the enthusiasm of a core group of people, is making steady progress. The parish council has ratified a committee that is made up of both councillors and parishioners and we have in turn held meetings with the diocese.

I won't go into further detail as the team will be able to give a more detailed update if required. So, no more for me to say on that, other than a big thank you for the work done so far.

That is the end of my report, written on a plane in a thunderstorm, so my apologies if I have missed anything.