

SNETTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Review

2015/2016

Office opening hours 10-12 Monday and Thursday

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Chair – Richard Barker; Clerk – Simon Bower

CLLR ANN LAMPLUGH

Most of you will by now have learned of the death of our colleague Ann Lamplugh. She joined Council in June 2013, having previously been involved with the campaigns over the Beach Footpath and Car Park. She immediately threw herself into all aspects of Council's work, taking particular interest in the Common and Open Spaces, the Group she led for most of her time on Council. It was her initiative to start the Open Days that Council runs each spring to keep residents informed of developments within the Village.

Her tireless efforts on behalf of the Villagers will have a lasting influence, and we all miss her deeply. Our condolences to David and her family.

WASP

The Silica Sand extraction proposals were finally overturned in the Summer, so the Village will be spared from having an industrial site on its doorstep. The site was removed from Norfolk County Council's list of sites for investigation following a mass campaign, culminating in a petition with thousands of signatures. An additional benefit is that there is now appreciation from County Hall that they need to consider all such matters on a much wider canvas, and look at the effects proposals like these have in sensitive areas. We would like to thank the other local councils who supported us, and congratulate, in particular, Stuart Dark and his team of WASPs. They developed such a successful strategy, using social media, the press, word of mouth and meetings, that other groups are looking at their example. A real coup for the Village.

Notes from the Clerk

The Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire responses have been analysed, and we are looking to submit the plan to the Borough in the near future. Please keep your eyes open in coming months, as there will be further public consultation prior to a referendum of all residents. If approved at that vote, the Plan will become the legal basis for planning decisions in coming years.

Council ran the fete in July this year, and, despite the best efforts of the British weather, this proved a great success. We would like to thank all those involved, particularly Kerry Dark, the Memorial Hall, the School, volunteers and sponsors. We will continue to run this event and, if you have any suggestions or would like to help, please contact us as usual.

I should also like to take the chance to introduce Diane Sheldon to you. She is working on admin support in the Office a few hours each week, covering when I am away, and so on. Diane, often known as Barney, recently set up a Cold Calling zone in Mallard Close, which helps stop people calling and selling at the door. We have information about such zones if you would like to set one up in your area.

Council tries to respond to any issue raised by residents, even when it is not technically within our power to do anything. At the open days in April, many mentioned speeding around the Village. We have been working with the Police and Highways to garner information and work on options. We will be using our speed sign to help this process, and are considering adding further sites.

Footpaths have, as ever, been contentious, with the overgrown nature of some of these causing irritation. They are the responsibility of landowners and NCC Highways. We have, however, agreed to do some work on Southgate Lane because of its location in the Village and the need to ensure a long-term solution.

The Common continues to be a valuable amenity and it has been good to see so many visiting and using the picnic area. Following one or two complaints we are currently in consultation with the Planning Inspectorate to establish the legality of the fencing.

I always believe that it is easy to complain and less easy to thank, so would like to thank all dog-owners in the Village. Though the question of dog-fouling may never be completely cured, there has been a massive improvement, particularly at the Common.

The Village is as busy as ever, and I am pleased that groups and individuals are increasingly visiting to seek support from Council in publicising their events and projects. Classical Music Rocks is a venture by Peter Barker to increase access for youngsters to live Classical music in schools. There has already been one event in the Village School, and Peter wishes to build on this throughout the area. There are plans for a new Scout Hut at Jimmy's Field. Both of these projects require modest funding on a regular basis to help them. The Village Cinema is providing a valuable service, and needs some practical help as it builds. If you would like more information, or can help in any way, please contact me.

I have also been asked to inform you that at the Paddock on Sat 26th November from 2-5 a Christmas Fayre will be held with various stalls, raffle and refreshments. There is further info elsewhere in the TORC on the Remembrance and Christmas arrangements.

On the very day we printed the last edition, I received information about electoral registration that was too late to be included! Though you may have missed a deadline, it is always worth checking that your registration is up to date; the contact number is 01553-616773.

Finally, Anglian Water have been in touch regarding private pumping stations. If you have one of these on your property, this could now be AW's responsibility. Contact me for more information.

Best wishes to you all

Simon

PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS – 2015/2016

	2014/15	2015/16
Balance at year start	£119,436	£111,790
Income - precept	£74,030	£81,060
Income - other	£28,265	£19,617
Expenditure - loan	£2,773	£2,651
Expenditure - staff	£31,805	£29,224
Expenditure - other	£75,363	£75,351
Balance at year end	£111,790	£105,241

Expenditure included £10,314 reclaimable VAT; Income included £9,940 VAT reclaimed

Significant items of expenditure (excluding VAT) were:

New Street Lighting	£29,981
Grass Cutting, Grounds Maintenance	£6,305
Speed Sign and Footpath on Beach Rd	£3,468
Repayment of Bond to Memorial Hall	£2,829
Loan Payments – Playground Equipment	£2,652
Benches, Picnic Benches	£2,470
Dog Bin Emptying (NB two years*)	£2,464
Street Lighting	£1,571
IT Equipment for Office	£1,358
Insurance	£956
Bin emptying	£954

**Dog bin accounts changed pay-by dates.*

You will see above a summary of the accounts for the last financial year. Even with the large amount we spent on the street lighting, we were able to reduce the precept for the current year by over 5%. This year we are spending a considerable amount on upgrading the play facilities and garden areas in Lodge Walk and the Memorial Field. We are still seeking sponsorship to help us with this – please let us know if you are interested.