

Snettisham Parish Council

CLERK'S NOTES FOR TORC – MARCH 2018

I hope you are all recovered from any of the nasty bugs that have been around this Winter, and that we can look forward to a pleasant Spring!

I begin with the sad news that Derek Ebbs, a former Council Chair, and long-serving Councillor died recently. Council has sent condolences to his family, and the Village flag has been lowered as a mark of respect.

You will probably have seen information about the Snett45 project which is commemorating the Villagers who died in World War I. This is part of a wider series of events, marking the centenary of 1918. There was a most successful launch in the Church on 22nd Feb, when the two local graves were adorned with rosemary, lavender, a torc, and letters from the Borough Mayor and a local schoolchild – this will be repeated at gravesides around the world by representatives from the Village. A major fundraising exercise is underway for the Poppy Appeal and Scotty's Little Soldiers - the latter is a locally run charity dedicated to supporting children who have lost a parent whilst serving in the British Armed Forces. We thank those businesses and individuals who have already been so generous. There is much more information at www.snettisham-remembers.co.uk/ where biographies of the fallen are being added regularly. For those who are not so internet-savvy, more information can be had at the Parish Office, where donations can also be made. Please do get involved!

We have been conscious for some time of an issue with signage around Southgate Lane and Station Rd, where delivery vehicles can find it difficult to gain access. We have consent from the Borough to place some signs in the area, showing exactly how to access each property – hopefully this will help very soon. Also on Southgate Lane, the County has agreed to do work on the surfacing. Several other small but important improvements will be made in the near future: painting and tidying of the Market Square bus shelter; filling in of the potholes there; painting of the adopted telephone kiosks (glazing already done) and improvement of the surface at the Common car parking area (thanks to Frimstone and our volunteers). We hope that the Strickland Avenue street light will be repaired soon; we apologise for the delay on this, but, unfortunately, we are not able to force the pace of the required re-connection. Our new grounds contractors have started recently; with a larger budget, we hope that the appearance of the Village will be improved as a result of us taking on more work previously done by Borough and County.

On the subject of budgets, you will be pleased to hear that your parish precept will be lower by c.2% next year. Our accounts are open and transparent and can be viewed on line or in person on request – the end of year figures will be in the next edition of the Torc.



Council always tries to listen to the views and concerns of residents. We currently have open times at the Office (Mon and Thurs, 10-12), councillor surgeries (last Weds of month – 2pm at the Old Bank), our facebook page (search for snettishampc), and our website (snettishamparish.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/ - recently extensively revised and improved). Please do make use of all of these ways to access our services – even if your enquiry relates to Borough or County matters, we can point you in the right direction. In addition, we have our Open Day (drop in session at the Memorial Hall; Sat 5th May, 10-4), and the Parish Meeting (7pm Weds 16th May, same location). If your group is interested in presenting information at either of these events, please contact me. All of the above are to help us listen to you – it is important to make use of them!

One other date for your diary is the Village fete on Saturday, 21st July – our new admin assistant – welcome, Rachael! - is busy organising this, and would appreciate any volunteers who might be able to help, even if only for a short time on the day. [email snettishamfete@gmail.com]

The Neighbourhood Plan will have been submitted to the Borough by the time you read this – things are then in their hands, but we hope the delay to the referendum is not too long. The government is proposing many changes to planning law, and the Plan is one way of ensuring that the Village does not become a victim of these changes by having too much development too quickly.

That said, we welcome the new residents who have recently arrived here. It is interesting how they have been visiting me to find out what goes on in the Village, and how surprised they are to find out what an active place Snettisham is. Can I repeat my request to those who run groups to let me have your contact details? – Council can then support you in your efforts to keep the Village thriving with activities. I would urge you to read the reports in the Torc on these and give your support to the Memorial Hall, the Heritage Group, and CMR in particular.

Without volunteers, rural communities can become backwaters, and it is important to remember that much of what happens could not do so without them; it is also important that their numbers are refreshed all the time. Council itself is seeking three new councillors at the moment; please contact me for more information.

So, take advantage of everything there is on offer in the Village over the coming months, and, if you can, try and get involved; if nothing else, remember occasionally to thank those who help make Snettisham such a special place in which to live.

Best wishes,
Simon

