

Woolverstone Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting 10th May 2017

Report from Suffolk County Councillor David Wood

Firstly may I say thank you for re-electing me as your County Councillor , I look forward to representing everyone on the Peninsula for the coming four years.

Once again we have witnessed further cuts to our mainline services such as the savage cuts to our Fire Service with the loss of Whole time Firefighters at Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft along with the removal of frontline Fire Engines at these locations. It still does not end there as the Council are also looking at reducing crewing arrangements on our Fire Engines so it's a case of watch this space.

Highways are never out of the news and are always a subject that is brought up at the various Parish Council meetings I attend. The council have decided to extend the contract with Kier subject to the review of current operation procedures and a new delivery plan – the second in as many years. They have also appointed a new Assistant Director whose brief is to take this forward and I must admit some improvement albeit slight has been seen so one must hope this will continue, although money will once again be tight.

We saw a new band in our Council Tax last year to deal with Adult Social Care – by order of the government this is of course a rise in Suffolk County Council side of your tax by 2% and again this year despite how it is packaged, but it will be ring fenced to the provision of care.

Also within this years proposed budget are a further 30m worth of cuts so it's a case of watch this space.

Locally great concern has been voiced about the Community Transport Service we are now receiving, and I thank Jenny Morris for arranging the meetings where this subject has been discussed in full. Although I must admit and I think others will agree the conclusions reached are not satisfactory. As such because this means a lot to myself as Buzabout the much loved former scheme we used to have on the Peninsula was started many years ago by Penny Clarke and myself and heralded by Suffolk County Council as the way forward. Once the forthcoming council elections are over and done with I intend to conduct a survey of the Peninsula to see what is required and the possibility of running something ourselves as long as funding can be secured . A real sense of "Déjà vu".

You will remember last year I reported on the Government proposals for devolution for Suffolk, Norfolk & Cambridgeshire, well that certainly came off the rails in the last year. Cambridgeshire are going ahead with it and have their election for a mayor in the forthcoming council elections. However, the Suffolk/ Norfolk bid was effectively derailed by several districts in Norfolk not supporting this idea. So given the general election we have soon I believe this is now a long way off all though I know there still a desire within Suffolk to go ahead with this.

Grants from my "locality fund " to help local organisations include a grant to St Michaels Church to help improve the heating system.

Other grants of note was towards the purchase of a new Coffee Caravan vehicle something I know has visited Holbrook in the past and will do in the future. Also money for the Shotley Peninsula Tourist Action Group website, a full list of all of my grants can be found on the SCC website once the election is over.

Finally I now most of you have heard me talk about the extension to the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which I chair. We have held the pre consultation events and I know the formal consultation should have taken place by now but unfortunately this has not taken place, however, I have been promised that this will take place once the County Elections are out of the way but with the other one just announced who knows when a case of watch this space. There will be an extra part of Holbrook added to the area.

Thank you

Cllr. David Wood

Berners Hall Management Committee

Brief Report for Woolverstone Parish Council AGM
Weds 10 May 2017

BHMC now consists of only 5 members who all carry out their Trustee responsibilities to the best of their abilities, knowledge and experience. We are very grateful to Jenny Double (780535) who deals with all the bookings and hiring enquiries. New members/Trustees from eligible individuals would be welcome!

Please see copy of our Annual Report on the notice board. In addition, a copy of the Building Report is available at this meeting for perusal if required.

We rely heavily on receipts from hirings & cottage rent to keep Berners Hall running. Although no fund raising has been done for quite a while, BHMC look forward to helping WPC in their forthcoming events.

Since the Annual Report last October, we have been very busy with the day to day running and general upkeep of Berners Hall and we are pleased to report the following progress updates.

1. All of the recommended work suggested in the 'First year plan' of the Buildings report has been carried out.
2. We are currently working on the 'Three year plan' (it was five!) and are awaiting quotes for brick replacing and re-pointing. This project, together with the upgraded/replacement rewiring and decorative tile projects are being carried out gradually to avoid excessive expenditure.
3. It is envisaged that a complete re-roofing will be necessary in the near future, and we are therefore mindful to budget around £50k for this work.
4. A new cooker has been installed in the kitchen, which boasts a top oven/grill and a large fan assisted oven.
5. The curtain tracks are being replaced for all windows, including the high back window on the stage.
6. The cottage fence is being replaced and work will begin shortly.
7. A new sign will be positioned on the cottage gate to avoid cars being parked in the tenants garden. (We would appreciate WPC event planners advertising the fact that over-flow parking is available.) As and when we are aware of any large event taking place in the hall, a further sign will be placed at the entrance to the beet pad to indicate the location of over-flow car parking. We are extremely grateful to Geoff Mayhew for the use of his land for this purpose.
8. The 'Mens Room' (no, not the 'Gents!') is being spring cleaned and re-decorated shortly. This will involve some de-cluttering of WPC file storage. (please & thank you)
9. Any donations of unwanted white paint - emulsion, undercoat & gloss, would be very welcome.

Finally, thank you to everyone who supports and/or uses Berners Hall in some way or another – we couldn't keep going without you.

Report for Woolverstone Parish Council Annual General Meeting 2017

Subject: St Michaels church

Author: Jane Gould

Date: 10/05/2017

The congregation and Parochial Church Council at St Michaels continue to forward their vision of enabling the church to be a beacon in the community and offering worship that is a little different from that offered in other Anglican churches in the area.

We are pleased to be able to report that the new heaters are installed and the electrical upgrade to allow the work to be carried out has been completed. The efficiency of the system is still, however an ongoing saga because the building does not meet UK Power Networks statutory lower limit for voltage offered. We are on the case. Thank you to everyone who bought heaters or part of heaters and a big thank you to Dave Wood for the £1,000 that came out of his locality fund.

The hard work of villagers in tidying the churchyard is a very visible sign of how the ownership of the church is being felt by a larger proportion of us Woolverstonians. We are very grateful for all the hard work that has been expended to this end.

We can report record numbers in church for the "special" services this year. Harvest saw 150 people singing traditional songs of praise and enjoying a harvest tea afterwards and the Carol Service was once again a full house with over 200 people enjoying the community spirit.

Report for Woolverstone Parish Council Annual General Meeting 2017

Subject: Community singing group, Vivo

Author: Jane Gould

Date: 10/05/2017

Village Voices, shortened to Vivo, meet every Friday in Berners Hall from 7pm to 8pm. We sing all genres of music and accept bookings for weddings, funerals, care homes, parties, carol services and much more. Our numbers continue grow to such an extent that I have had to learn the joys of using Mailchimp this year to make the weekly missive more manageable.

One area that we have seen particular growth in this year is that of the all age Vivo band who rock up every week to accompany us. When we sing at the Arthur Ransome day on Saturday we expect to have two saxophones, a flute a violin or two, a clarinet and a guitar.

Woolverstone United Football Club

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Season Report 2016-2017

Having won division 4 of the Suffolk and Football League in the 2015-2016 season and gained promotion to Division 3. Prospect for another good season was in the offing, but player loyalty does not count as up to 9 players decided to seek their fortunes elsewhere. With a depleted squad and playing in a higher league, the season would prove to be tough. A number of very competitive matches were played but without a proven goalscorer and a sometimes leaky defence, results did not always favour us. At the end of the day we retained our division 3 status, hoping next season will bring better fortune. On a brighter note the U.17 Youth Team who play in the Suffolk Youth League on Saturday Mornings finished their season as runners up in their division and we hope that some of the players will progress to the senior team in future.