

Bucklesham Parish Council Chairmans Annual Report 2022/2023 - May 10th 2023

Firstly, I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors, all of whom are volunteers, for freely giving their time for the benefit of the Community. Their attendance to Parish Council Meetings and the contribution they make by representing us at SALC and Felixstowe Peninsular meetings etc. made for another positive and fulfilling year.

A special thanks must go to Cllr Heather Owen and Cllr Evelyn Bloomfield, who both retired from the Parish Council after many years of service, and I wish them well for the future sincerely hoping that they will attend as visitors to our subsequent Parish Council Meetings. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our County Councillor and particularly our two District Councillors Richard Kerry and Mick Richardson. Both have given Bucklesham Parish Council their full attention and have made significant grants from their Enabling Communities Budgets to help us provide improved facilities for our residents.

My next expression of gratitude goes to Ruth our Parish Clerk. She is to be congratulated on all that she has achieved this year. Her recently acquired CiLCA qualification is to be applauded. She astounds me with her commitment and enthusiasm, she revels in applying for available grants and nothing seems too much trouble. So thank you Ruth and I am sure the Parish Council can look forward to the future with you as our "guiding light".

So, this year 2022/2023 what have we been involved in and what have we achieved?

We have dealt with planning and the subsequent development by Castlemore Homes of 33 dwellings in Levington Lane in a way that has been positive for the community and we will continue to be involved until the development is complete.

We processed the Planning Application of the proposed Solar Farm adjacent to Bucklesham Hall and trust that at all times we have represented the majority view of the community.

A precis of all our other achievements is as follows:

Poplar Trees on Playing Field removed.

Maintenance of Playing Field including storm damage has been undertaken.

New Path laid at entrance to Playing Field.

Proposed, and granted Bucklesham School with £1,000 grant for their play equipment.

Installed a Nest Swing on Playing field.

Refurbished the redundant telephone kiosk outside the Shannon as an information centre.

Created a "Welcome to Bucklesham" postcard and webpage for new residents.

Renewed Boundary fence in part on the Playing Field.

Removed and scrapped the old ships container on Playing Field.

Facilitated high level meeting with S.C.C. Highways to discuss various issues relating to the roads and road safety in the village.

Facilitated meeting with Land Owner and corresponded with S.C.C. in support of improved parking facilities at Bucklesham School.

Represented the Village at remembrance service and laid Parish Council wreath.

Conducted a village litter pick with grateful support from many villagers, collecting approximately 25 black bin liners full of rubbish.

I know that I have not included everything so please excuse me for that, the above are just representative of our collective activities and just demonstrates how much goes on (often behind the scenes) within the Parish.

2023/2024 will see us stand again as Parish Councillors for a further 4 years, we have two vacancies on the Parish Council and I look forward to welcoming candidates to the role as soon as possible.

In the meantime I would just reiterate my thanks to all concerned and as we move forward be proud of what has been achieved over this year and look forward optimistically to being of service to the community for the coming Year.

Cllr David Brinkley

Bucklesham Parish Council Chair

Bucklesham and Foxhall Community Council Annual Report, May 2023

The Parish Councillors, acting as Community Councillors, continued to ensure the Community Council was a working charity for the village in 2022.

All Councillors understand that many grants and awards of money are only available to Community Councils and are not open to Parish Councils. The Parish Council continues to ensure that the Constitution is fully adhered to and that any money raised under the auspices of the Community Council is spent solely in the village and on village projects.

The AGM will take place on 10th May and all Parish Councillors agreed to continue as Community Council Trustees: Trevor Bickers, David Brinkley, Rhea Gardner, Clive Lenton, Kathryn Roper and Lynda Seagroatt along with David Riddleston (Playing Field Manager) and Ruth Johnson (Parish Council Clerk).

The Community Council did not pursue any fundraising activities however the following Grant Applications were made on behalf of Village projects in 2022 ~

Grant Name	On Behalf of	Amount
East Suffolk Community Fund	Drama Group	£1,885

The Current Trustees will stand again in 2023 while continuing to look for permanent trustees from the village for the future. This will be reviewed in a year.

Rhea Gardner
May 2023

Annual report – East Suffolk District Councillor Mick Richardson, April 2023

To be honest – this is a bit of a 16-month report as only having been elected in the August of 2021, there wasn't that much I could have reported at this time last year having served only a few months.

So, in the last year and 4 months, I have managed to get my 'feet under the table' so to speak at East Suffolk Council and can report that I was selected to sit on the Audit & Governance Committee (more about that later), and also, I regularly sit on the Scrutiny Committee.

The latter of those two is a committee that literally scrutinises the work of the various departments and teams who 'do the work' for both the Council and the population within East Suffolk Council – and with ESC being the largest single District Council in England, there's an awful lot going on to scrutinise! That said, at all the Scrutiny meeting I have attended, I have yet to find any team or department, or any individual who isn't doing their very best for the people of East Suffolk.

As for as the Audit & Governance Committee, their role is to ensure that all the Councils financial transactions are following policy, procedure and relevant legislation – but they also hold departments to account for the way that progress is being made against relevant projects (just as an example, those responsible for public car parking undertook to conduct a consultation process on public car parking places across the District (including electric vehicle charging points) as well as kerb side parking - meaning yellow lines etc), so we challenged them as to how far that process has got – and it's going well – the results will likely be published (I hope!) in early 2024.

The A&G Committee are also responsible for governing councillors' behaviours. All councillors, no matter which council they sit on, are governed by the Nolan Principles – 7 strands on an individuals behaviour in public life.

It was therefore with a heavy heart that I had to report to the final East Suffolk Council meeting in March 2023 about the findings of an external team of lawyers who were employed to look into the behaviours of a Lib Dem colleague who had effectively suggested that the Housing Team had 'fiddled' the figures. That was found not to be the case and the individual was required to apologise – which has not happened. That's not the way to behave in public office!

Now, with all the above put to one side, as a sitting District Councillor for the Orwell & Villages ward at ESC, I have been working with eight parish councils to try and do my best wherever I can in providing support and information to those parish councils for the benefit of the local communities.

Very clearly, one of the biggest issues in the majority of parishes is 'planning'.

I'm acutely aware that all parish councils 'scrutinise' planning applications and that some have a heavier workload in that regard than others!

In Trimley St Martin, three sites have been developed already and two more seem likely to appear in the not-too-distant future. There are various different thought processes about these applications with some members of the community saying that it shouldn't happen and it's simple over-development, some saying it'd be ok if it was to be built with relevant infrastructure included, and others saying 'get on with it, we need the houses'.

The trouble is that 'land' was identified and allocated for development years ago, but it's only now that these developments are coming into being.

Working with both of the Trimley Parish Councils and the developers, a number of ‘issues’ that were identified have been resolved, and the developers have undertaken to enhance building and landscape design to help offset the loss of land and the effects of that loss by including things like ‘bee bricks, bird boxes, bat boxes, hedgehog highways etc into the builds. Equally, all houses will have solar panels ‘built in’ and EV charging points installed to assist new home owners to reduce their power draw from the national grid. I wouldn’t call these things a ‘win’ per se, but it does go a little way to offset the loss of farmland (which by the way was NOT sold off by the council – and from which the council does NOT receive any monies for said sale!)

Objections to planning applications There appears to be much confusion around what sort of objection has to be taken notice of .. and I have been copied into a large number recently – but – an objection that “we should be keeping agricultural lands to be able to feed ourselves” or “I wont be able to walk my dog across those fields anymore” and similar do NOT amount to an objection that local planners are required to take note of or action.

I have suggested to the local planning team that we create a public YouTube video to explain what people can object to and how best to do it. This is currently on hold as a Bill proposed by Michael Gove MP is currently finding its way through the legislature that will hopefully massively and positively impact how planning applications are decided and which hopefully give local people a genuine say in what is built – and where.

Other than for planning matters, I have had the ability to support a range of local initiatives that have benefitted the local communities – here’s the list!

4th March 2022	£1,000	Bucklesham Parish Council	Funding to Provide a Nest Swing on the Playing Field, Bucklesham
23rd September 2022	£573.30	Kirton & Falkenham Parish Council	Funding to install an enhanced direction sign on the village green.
29th November 2022	£500	Levington and Stratton Hall Parish Council	Funding to distribute a 30-page newsletter (A4) to all residents in Levington and Stratton - quarterly.
-	£1,691.70	Cost of Living	Cost of Living contribution.
10th February 2023	£500	Deben Flower Club	Funding towards an event.
10th February 2023	£720	Bucklesham Parish Council	Funding towards the Bowls club
16th February 2023	£478	Bucklesham Parish Council	Cost towards newsletter for the year.
23rd February 2023	£92.00	Trimley St Martin Parish Council	Funding towards a new logo for the PC

26th February 2023	£645	Kirton & Falkenham Village Hall	Funding towards roof repairs
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2021/22

Date	Amount	Group/Organisation	Project
30th September 2021	£2,000	Waldringfield Parish Council	Funding towards new play equipment.
20th October 2021	£1,000	Kirton & Falkenham Village Hall	Funding towards building improvements to the Village Hall.
24th November 2021	£1,000	Kirton and Falkenham Gardeners' Club	Enhancing the programme of events, comprising lectures and visits, to retain existing members and bring in new people.
14th January 2022	£1,000	Buckleham Parish Council	Funding To Provide a Nest Swing on the Playing Field
8th February 2022	£1,850	Trimley St Mary Parish Council	Funding towards jubilee events.

I'm absolutely delighted to have been able to support so many good and great causes across the ward – and I very much look forward to being about this time next year to report to you all once again.

I'd also like to say a very warm 'thank you' to all eight parish councils for the warm and friendly reception that is afforded each time I attend their meetings – though it can be a bit of a juggling game as many have their meeting on the same date at the same time!

Very best wishes

Mick Richardson

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Promoted by Geoff Holdcroft on behalf of East Suffolk Conservatives all of Unit B, Bristol Court, Betts Avenue, Martlesham Heath, Suffolk IP12 4AU.

Bucklesham and Foxhall Village Hall

Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 2022

There was a significant change in way the Hall was managed in 2022. This was necessary to ensure its future success and viability.

With the long-term illness of Heather Owen, and even though the committee remained dedicated and hardworking, there was a lack of availability to occupy the major roles of Treasurer, Secretary and Bookings Clerk. These roles all fell on Ruth Johnson, but it became clear in July 2022 that this was not sustainable. The Committee agreed to employ Ruth to undertake all roles concerning Hall management, rather than these roles being carried out on a voluntary basis. The payroll administration would be undertaken by SALC (Suffolk Association of Local Councils) to ensure all PAYE and National Insurance were paid. The nature of the specific details of this employment relationship would be reviewed in 12 months' time.

Our fantastic staff member Bridget continued to manage the Hall's cleaning regime to ensure the high standards of the Hall were maintained, with daily visits committing to clean the Hall before and after each booking. We purchased an industrial-style floor cleaning machine which has proved very effective and good value for money.

We increased our regular bookings with another group for under-5s on a Friday morning, and a second Band Practice on a Friday evening. Bookings for private parties continued to increase.

We successfully received four more Grants to help with fuel bills and to continue with our maintenance programme. Our major renovation project was the replacement of the entire roof in April following the Biffa Award in 2021. We held a 'Thank You Biffa Award' Open Morning which was very well attended by many villagers and the Project Manager of Biffa Award. Biffa Award were thrilled with the turnout and the effort made by the Committee to publicly acknowledge their generosity.

Our Income in 2022 was £52,557.60 (including the grant for the roof). Income from Hall Hire was £9,615, an increase on the 2021 figure of £8,770. The remaining income was from Grants. Expenditure was £55,889.55, meaning a total loss of £3,331.95. This was due to the purchase of the floor cleaning machine (which was not covered by grants) and the wages of the new Hall Clerk.

A full breakdown of the accounts has been recorded and audited by D.Wardle, CIPFA. Our Reserves stand at £20,000 as an insurance in case of future lockdown restrictions impacting on Hall hire, or any major project that requires significant funding.

To sum up: the year 2022 ended with a bank balance of £26,911.63, compared to the balance at the start of year of £30,243.58. The continued success of the Hall is due to the dedicated Committee working together as a great team to protect our fantastic community hub for the whole village, our brilliant member of staff Bridget, and the Grants we were successfully able to secure from various funds.

Ruth Johnson, Clerk to the Village Hall – April 2023

Bucklesham Primary School Report May 2023

I can't believe I have been Headteacher at Bucklesham for a year now! It has certainly been a busy year.

The children took part in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations last summer with a family afternoon on our field, with judges for our Bake Off provided from the Parish Council and The Shannon. The children have planted trees for the Queen's Green Canopy project and fruit trees recently. Our outdoor play equipment was installed in October and was supported by the Parish Council and other grants alongside fundraising by our parents. Our Eco Team are creating a planter for the Suffolk Show this year, and will be with their exhibit - if you attend the Show, please come and chat with them.

Our new kitchen starting being built last Summer and was finally completed in January this year, giving us lovely facilities to enable us to cook our meals on site.

The children have all visited Bucklesham Church recently and the Head Pupils were involved in laying a wreath at the Remembrance Service in the church. We held our first Christingle Service in church since covid in December, and our Harvest Festival in September, which were well attended by parents.

We now have volunteers back in school hearing readers; please contact us if you would like to get involved and apply to volunteer in school.

Miss Rachael Rudge

Head teacher

St Mary's Church Annual Report

In the past year we finally achieved a full resumption of services on three Sundays each month. We, at last, were permitted to restart our unique All Age Praise service every third Sunday in the month. This service is suitable for all, young or old and is always taken by one of our three newly appointed Elders – each well known residents. Refreshments always follow every service.

All are welcome. Our hymns are sung very heartily as we adhere to the principal that it is not devil that should have all the best tunes.

Every month we hold a Library/Coffee morning in the church, where anyone can pop in for a book or a coffee or a chat – or all three. This is very popular with the Monday Morning Walkers.

The monthly church lunch, held in the village hall, and open to residents and church members continues to be very popular.

There is also a Bible Study group held in some ones house every month.

Fundraising activities are regularly held each year and last year there was a Tea and Croquet afternoon, Historic Churches Ride and Stride, A play about Daniel Defoe and a Christmas Fayre.

The church regularly collects food items for FIND (Families in Need charity) together with food donated at the Harvest Festival and vouchers donated at Christmas.

Last year our beautiful knitted tree was transformed into a 'Nature Tree' and many flowers, birds, fish, leaves etc., and even a knitted river were created by the community and children from the village Primary School. In December it was once again decorated for Christmas.

On Armistice Sunday in November we were at last able to revert to a full service of Remembrance. It is always a moving occasion and the two minutes silence had extra poignancy last year when on the stroke of 11am a large military helicopter circled overhead.

The church is open every day and is situated in a lovely peaceful setting. Everyone is welcome to enjoy this space.

David Wardle, Church Warden