

Trunch Parish Council

An Ordinary Meeting of Trunch Parish Council was held by video conference using Zoom on Wednesday 2nd December. The meeting was attended by the Clerk, nine Councillors and the County and District Councillors.

Our District Councillor, Greg Hayman submitted a report in which he confirmed that the North Norfolk District Council were one of the leading Local Authorities in supporting local businesses during the pandemic. The County Councillors' full report can be read by visiting www.edmaxfield.org.uk

Despite requests to repair potholes in the village there is still no action from Norfolk County Council. Highway inspectors will be patrolling the village during the week commencing 28th December to ascertain what highway maintenance work is required. We still await a date as to when Norfolk County Council intend installing the speed gates at the North end of the village. After confirming with NCC that our £10,000 contribution towards the total estimated cost of £81,000 is available the North Walsham Road drainage works are scheduled for next year.

Although there have been no neighbourhood policing meetings (SNAP) during the Covid crisis we have continued to liaise with our Police Beat Managers regarding issues that are of concern to residents. Councillor Richard Miles attended a Q&A session with the Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner and the Deputy Chief Constable. He also attended the AGM of the Independent Advisory Group

Under part 2 of the draft local plan there is a likelihood that NNDC will propose that Trunch changes from Countryside status to a Small Growth Village. The recommendations of Central Government contained in a White Paper, regarding new planning regulations will make it easier for developers to build in Growth areas. As a result, it was felt appropriate for the Parish Council to develop and produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan which will enable us to have some legal status in controlling future development within Trunch. A Steering Group has been formed, one task of which to seek local opinion by recruiting residents to join and assist the Group in progressing the Plan. If you are interested in having a say in the development of the village contact me or Councillor Richard Miles (Tele: 01263 721107)

The Norfolk County Council have removed the fallen branches from the tree in Pyghtle Close. Due to the danger posed to the public by damaged and fallen branches the Parish Council's tree contractor made safe two trees on the playing field. We thank the volunteers who spent many hours during this year cleaning the play equipment on the playing field.

The new Clerk, Jane Wisson, began her duties on 1st November and attended her first Parish Council meeting on 4th November where she received a warm welcome. Jane can be contacted by telephone on 07818 026809 or email clerk@trunchparishcouncil.co.uk

At an Extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 9th December the Precept for the year April 2021 -March 2022 was set at £20, 822 an increase of 3.1% on this year. This means each household will pay, on average, an extra £1.71 for the Parish Council portion of Council Tax.

Earlier in the month we distributed a leaflet in which we gave some important information about controlling the coronavirus together with some news about the village Welfare Fund, Green Deal and Trunch Trades. If anyone has been affected by the restrictions or lost their job the welfare fund is available to assist with your finances if required. Also, there may be an opportunity to start your own enterprise, Trunch Trades are ready to help you.

Our meetings cover many items which I am unable to report here so please visit our web site www.trunchparishcouncil.co.uk to view a full set of the Minutes, details of our Finances and various Documents. Due to restrictions of the Coronavirus meetings are being held by video conferencing using 'Zoom'. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th January 2021 at 7.30pm. **A link to join the meeting can be obtained by contacting me two days prior to the meeting.** A Parish Council page also features on the Village web site www.trunch-norfolk.co.uk

Brian Boughton – Chairman **Contact me via Trunch Nextdoor/brianboughton@btinternet.com/ 01263 720252**

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Speeding Traffic

Although the permanent 'flashing' 30mph traffic warning signs and the speed gates have had some impact reducing the speed of traffic through the village there is great concern that vehicles are still speeding, even overtaking on the ½ mile length of road (North Walsham Road) through the middle of the village. There are also reports of speeding vehicles on the Mundesley and Knapton Roads within the village. After discussion with our Police Beat Managers the Trunch Parish Council have applied to Norfolk County Council for a Parish Partnership Grant of 50% towards the cost of obtaining a Speed Activated Monitoring sign (SAM2) which can be mounted on the existing speed repeater 30mph sign posts along the affected roads. This device only monitors speed and records the times that the speed limit is exceeded, it does not contain a camera or number plate recognition sensors. It flashes up a warning to drivers that the speed limit has been exceeded and acts as a reminder to reduce speed to that of the limit of 30mph. However, the time and the number of occasions that the speed limit is exceeded can give the Police sufficient reason to visit the site with speed detection equipment that identifies offending vehicles. Apparently, this has proved quite successful in apprehending persistent offenders in villages in North Norfolk where these SAM2 signs are in operation.

As other costs of running the village have increased the Parish Council are mindful of the impact of the virus and have endeavoured to minimise the Council's portion of the Council Tax for next year. In the circumstances the Council did not think it appropriate to make a further demand on the Precept. It would seem, however, that residents are keen to do 'whatever it takes' to get traffic to reduce speed and as quickly as possible. As a result we have had several generous offers of donations to fund the remaining 50% (£1600) towards the total cost of £3200, **but if you are, personally, interested in making a donation to help to raise the money as quickly as possible to reach the target of £1600 please contact Brian Boughton.**

To help in the quest to get vehicles to reduce speed we are looking to reinstate the Speed Watch team who were unable to be operational this year due to the coronavirus and lack of volunteers. If you are interested in joining the Speed Watch team and can spare a couple of hours now and again please let Brian or Councillor Richard Miles know.

Trunch Village Society

As the fund raising activities of the Society were severely restricted due to the coronavirus lockdowns we are sorry that there will be no grants available to the village Organisations and Groups this year. We have funds to support the Community Compost Scheme but changes have been made to the collection service such that the Group were able to sell the van. This will provide a substantial saving for the Group's running costs. Also, volunteers have kindly agreed to use personal transport and equipment to support the Group in maintaining a service for next year.

If any village Organisation or Group are having difficulties with funding the various activities such that they are in desperate or urgent need of money please contact the Chairman, Chris Owen (Tele:722072 or Email: trunchcornerstores@yahoo.co.uk)

If circumstances permit and the vaccines help rid us of the COVID 19 virus we are hopeful that we can restore grant awards next year. In the meantime, the Society are preparing to update the Parish Plan which was first issued in 2008. Stage 1 of the update involves distributing a questionnaire to all households and businesses in order to obtain your views and aspirations for your future wellbeing and that of the village.

Finally, we thank all of our volunteers for helping with the collections and processing of the garden waste, the distribution of leaflets around the village and all the support during a difficult year for us all.