

Trunch Parish Council

Ordinary Meetings of Trunch Parish Council continued in January, February and March by video conference using Zoom during the recent Covid lockdown. The meetings were attended by the Clerk, Councillors, the County and District Councillors and residents

Our County Councillor, Ed Maxfield, reported that the Norfolk County Council's element of the Council Tax has been increased by 4%. The Council are reviewing contracts to make further savings. The County Council elections are going ahead on 6th May and if any residents are concerned about visiting a polling station during the pandemic they can obtain a postal vote by contacting North Norfolk District Council. The District Councillor, Greg Hayman, confirmed that there is no increase in the NNDC's element of the Council Tax. He also stated that the District Council are continuing to develop the housing strategy (Local Plan). The matter of the empty homes in Trunch was raised with Greg who has promised to investigate the issue.

The new speed activated monitoring sign (SAM2) has been ordered and should be in operation during April. We have had several generous offers of donations towards our 50% share of the cost. If you would like to make a donation please contact me. Also, we are looking for volunteers to assist with the management of the sign, regulations state it must be moved to various key locations around the village on a monthly basis. If you are interested in helping us please let me know.

Thankfully, Norfolk County Council Highways repaired some, but not all pot holes. We have been told further repairs will be carried out after April when funds will be made available. We still await a date as to when Norfolk County Council intend installing the speed gates at the North end of the village and commence the North Walsham Road drainage works scheduled for this year. Council services have been significantly disrupted by the effects of the pandemic.

Our steering group made up of the Clerk, Councillors, a representative from the Village Society and residents continue to investigate the development of a Neighbourhood Plan. The group have met with a Planning Officer from the District Council and made contact and have been in consultation with Councillors and Clerks from other Parish Councils and representatives from commercial organisations. As details of part 1 of the Local Plan emerge it is evident that NNDC, despite our objections, are proposing to change the designated status of Trunch from Countryside to a Small Growth Village which allows a small development of 'open market housing'. It is the work of the group that has highlighted this situation enabling the Parish Council to make further representation about our concerns. We will be meeting the Planning Manager responsible for the Local Plan shortly. If you are interested in having a say in the development of the village by joining the steering group please contact me or Councillor Richard Miles (Tele: 01263 721107).

The Council has submitted a nomination for the Crown Public house as an Asset of Community Value which, if granted, will protect its future use. Although not under current threat, should the owners apply for 'change of use' then the fact the Crown is listed as an asset of community value may be a material consideration in the District Council's decision on whether to grant a change of use. Listing also provides time for the right of the community to purchase the asset.

Recently we have received complaints about the upsurge in doorstep sales persons (cold callers). They ignore the 'No Cold Callers' signs displayed in house windows and on occasions appear threatening to the householder, especially the older residents. We are sure that the majority of the village residents support our Trunch to be registered with Norfolk County Council as a No Cold Caller Zone enabling us to obtain support and access to Trading Standards to pursue unwanted callers.

Our special thanks to those kind residents who have already donated money towards the cost of the SAM2 sign.

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 7th April 2021 at 7.30pm. **A link to join the meeting can be obtained by contacting me.** 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**