


Chair PC	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>PARISH MEETING 2019</u></p> <p>Good evening ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the annual meeting of 2019. For those who do not know me, my name is Trevor Roberts and for my sins, I am chair of the Parish Council.</p> <p>Looking at the agenda, refreshments follow immediately after my report, so do please put the kettle on.</p> <p>Let me do a brief rundown of the Parish Council. We meet usually on the second Tuesday of each month here in the Priory Room. We start at 7.00 and try to finish by 9.00 (we do succeed sometimes). The general public are welcome to attend our meetings and we have an allocated time early on the agenda where the public can discuss matters that may concern them with the council. This is known as Public Open Forum and is the only time that the public is allowed to take part in any of our discussions. After that they have to be quiet!</p> <p>Now the members of the council.  Vice chairman is Richard Belson.  Maggie Barber. (apologies given for tonight)  Amanda Ellis.  Brian Kinnair.  Nick Mecrow.  And last but most definitely not least our hard working Clerk Kevin Boadley.  Kevin is responsible for not least the general running of the council but is also point of contact for anything that the public may wish to bring to the attention to the Parish Council. He also produces the minutes that are published in the Observer and on the village web site, along with details of meetings, finances standing orders and other regulations as required by law. In his spare time he also updates the website with additions / changes to events and general news items.</p> <p>I have been asked many a time “What does the Parish Council do”.  Well here are some of the principle responsibilities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The maintenance of the walls, memorials, trees and grassed areas of the CLOSED churchyard that surrounds the Church.</li> <li>2) Street lighting – did you know Walsham le Willows has 49 street lamps that cost close to a £1,000 / year to illuminate? We have just started a long term costly project of upgrading the old lamps to LEDs to try and bring the running costs down. Councillor Ellis has graciously taken on the co-ordination of this arduous task, so if you have any comments to make regarding street lighting do let her know via the Clerk.</li> <li>3) Bus shelters</li> <li>4) Litter bins</li> <li>5) Doggy bins</li> <li>6) Street cleaning</li> <li>7) Public rights of way – Councillor Belson with his trusty bicycle as usual takes on the role of checking these as our Footpath Warden.</li> <li>8) Comment on Planning Applications – our powers are very minimal we can only comment on applications.</li> <li>9) Being aware of matters that may have an impact on the community – if you have any concerns do pass them on to us via the Clerk.</li> </ol>
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	<p>10) We also support the Play Council and the Play Area in Townhouse Road financially and Councillor Kinnair has agreed to assist with the accounting and managing of the committee.</p> <p>We have two litter picks a year, now under the responsibility of Councillor Mecrow and myself and I am sure we both would like to express our thanks to Councillor Barber for not only running the litter picks in the past but for pointing us in the right direction as to what is where and who does what! - we may get it right next time But I'll ask Maggie to make sure she is not on holiday!</p> <p>Our financial budget has been set for the year and once again it has had a small increase to the precept in line with inflation. Large items of expenditure for the year are upkeep of the Play Park, Street Lighting and our new SIDs. Speed Indicator Devices.</p> <p>Regarding the last item, my attention was brought to comments made on social media very recently.</p> <p>I would like to quote to you an extract:</p> <p><i>local councilors that do absolutely nothing but make sure were they live is looked after, our end of the village apparently it's okay to enter a 60 mph plus, it's been mentioned many times and nothing's happened, but no councilors live here.</i></p> <p>I apologise for the grammatical errors.</p> <p>Firstly I can only assume it is far easier to make defamatory comments on social media rather than actually email Parish Council via the Clerk or come to that, actually attend a meeting.</p> <p>The positioning of the SID's is governed by local authority not Parish Council. If the road does not reach the necessary criteria a SID cannot be sited. At the end of the day some poor soul (me) has to park in the road and place a ladder up against the post to service the sign and change the batteries every ten days or so and with a physique like this, that takes a long time.</p> <p>Incidentally any volunteers to do this chore please see me afterwards.</p> <p>Moving on, our Neighbourhood plan is progressing well but is always on the lookout for more residents to join the working group. They normally meet here at the Priory Room on the last Thursday of the month. (Hasn't this changed Trev??)</p> <p>Finally as I hear the kettle whistling, I would like to thank my fellow councillors for all of their support during the past year and also to Kevin for his exemplary efforts to keep us on the straight and narrow – namely <b>me keeping to his agenda</b> and trying to finish at a reasonable hour</p> <p>That is it folks - Teas and coffees are waiting for you.</p>
JF	<p><b>Apologies from the Clerk for omitting to invite Cllr Fleming</b>  <b>Annual Report 2018/ 2019</b></p>  <p><b>Suffolk</b>  <b>County Council</b></p> <p><b>Walsham-le-Willows Parish Council</b></p> <p>Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division, Suffolk  <a href="mailto:Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk">Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk</a> Tel: 07714-597980 Twitter: @jesstfleming</p> <p><b>State of the County</b> – A new County Council administration in May 2018 including Leader Cllr Mathew Hicks , and Deputy Cllr Mary Evans (also Cabinet Member for Highways). Chief Executive Nicola Beach took over last summer from Deborah Cadman. The Council's focus has been to invest in local roads and infrastructure and work more closely with our</p>

NHS partners to improve social care and public health. The NHS 10-year Plan was published in January and this signals major changes to the way that these services will be commissioned and provided in the future.

The County Council has recently published the State of Suffolk Report 2019, which contains a wide range of information about the County; refer to [www.HealthySuffolk.org.uk/JSNA](http://www.HealthySuffolk.org.uk/JSNA)

**A140 Upgrades** – Planning approval has been granted for two new roundabouts on the A140 and a link road to the northern roundabout from the B1077 north of Eye. Construction is expected to begin in summer 2019. The scheme includes pedestrian and cycle access arrangements and identifies some further modifications in the local area once the scheme is in place.

**Highways** - Suffolk Highways service centres at Rougham, Halesworth and Ipswich are now well established and community wardens have been working with parishes. Suffolk Highways has purchased three Nu-phalt Thermal Patching machines aided by a central government grant which achieve more effective and durable road repairs in poor weather. The web based reporting system is now widely used for all highway issues -as a reminder: Report a defect <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/>  
Check on area roadworks - <https://roadworks.org/>

A community 'self help' scheme has been developed and is now available to parishes to carry out minor work locally. <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/community-self-help-scheme/>

**'The Hold' Historic Records Centre, Ipswich** - construction has commenced and the new centre is set to open in Spring 2020. It will replace the existing Ipswich Record Office in Gatacre Road, the Lowestoft and Bury Record Offices will remain open. On this basis Suffolk Record Office was on March 28<sup>th</sup> awarded Archive Service Accreditation, a quality standard which allows records of national importance to be retained in the County in the long term.

**Upgrades to Suffolk Recycling Centres** – The County is investing £6m into upgrades or replacement at Foxhall, Haverhill, Ipswich and Stowmarket drop-off sites; a suitable new site is badly needed for the latter. The Materials Recycling Centre at Great Blakenham is undergoing upgrades and will re-open in autumn. Tours will be available for the public at that time.

**Special Education Needs and Disabilities Investment** - Suffolk County Council has committed capital investment to build new local specialist provisions for children and young people with SEND. This includes two or three new special schools (currently proposed in Ipswich and Bury) and specialist units attached to existing mainstream schools, a number of which aim to open in 2020.

**Broadband** – The Council, in partnership with Districts, has secured £1.725m from DEFRA to help provide Superfast Broadband access to rural businesses currently excluded from fibre broadband rollout, and to enable additional non-business premises to upgrade. This will help connect some of the remaining 2% of the County not covered by existing contracts, although more work is needed to reach all premises. Connections for the qualifying rural areas will begin later in 2019.

**Planning and Major Projects** – In the past year the Council has reviewed EDF's Stage 3 plans for Sizewell C and Scottish Power Renewables new land based substations and cabling to support offshore wind farms. SCC has objected to current plans for both projects due to effects on traffic and transport, protected species, landscapes, and cumulative effects on the East Suffolk coast.

	<p>Nationally the Government issued an updates National Planning Policy Framework in July and in February 2019, and new guidance on Neighbourhood Plans. The Council is working on its own Design Guidance anticipated later this year to help influence and improve new developments.</p> <p><b>Council Budget Challenge</b> – With the reducing government revenue support grant the Council needed to raise council tax this year to help pay for needed services, particularly health, social care and childrens’ services which now take ¾ of the total budget of £519m. If you have comments or questions about this report or any other matter please get in touch as I would like to hear your views.</p> <p>Thank you for your support and participation over the past year.</p>
DC	<p><b><u>Walsham Le Willows Annual Parish Meeting - District Councillor’s Report</u></b></p> <p><b><u>New Administration.</u></b></p> <p>Rick Meyer was returned as the elected representative for the Walsham Ward in the recent Mid Suffolk District Council elections. held in May. Due to Ward boundary changes he replaces Jessica Fleming who remains Walsham Le Willows’ County Representative. The new administration which was formalised at the full Council meeting on 20 May 2019, consists of 16 Conservative, 12 Greens, 5 Liberal Democrats and 1 Independent member.</p> <p><b><u>Responsibilities</u></b></p> <p>RM has been allocated the following responsibilities in addition to representing Ward members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MSDC Holdings Ltd</li> <li>CIFCO Ltd</li> <li>MSDC Development Control Committee A</li> <li>Associations of Suffolk Museums</li> <li>Trustee Museum of East Anglia</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Availability.</u></b></p> <p>Once electronic support is in place RM’s contact details will be displayed on the village noticeboard. If Ward members need his help or wish to discuss a matter of concern they are encouraged to get in touch.</p> <p><b><u>Issues / Opportunities.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>PCSOs:</u></b> Working in partnership with Suffolk Constabulary, Mid Suffolk District Council is currently funding 2 PCSOs to deal with a range of activities including parking related matters, speeding and low level anti-social behaviour and will also be available to drop in on local businesses and community organisations across the Mid Suffolk District. Should issues arise in Wattisfield we can bid for their support.</p> <p><b><u>Changes to recycling:</u></b> The Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Gt Blakenham, where recycling collected from Suffolk households is sorted, will be undergoing a major refurbishment. This follows a new contract for the operation of Suffolk’s countywide network of 11 Recycling Centres. This will result a state-of-the-art facility for Suffolk, with the latest mechanical and optical sorting equipment. During the renovation period, kerbside recycling will be collected as usual and will be delivered to other UK sorting facilities. Residents should note, however, that drink cartons (e.g. Tetra Pak) and metal pots, pans and trays will no longer be accepted in their recycling bin and instead can be recycled at any recycling centre.</p> <p><b><u>Towns and Parishes get £290k CIL Boost in Mid Suffolk: Town and Parish councils across Mid Suffolk are set to receive a total of £289,114.30 of community infrastructure funding from the Council’s CIL scheme.</u></b> The Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds were collected from property developers between 1 October 2018 and 31 March 2019 will provide a much-needed boost to town and parish councils and parish meetings in the and Mid Suffolk area.</p>

	<p><b>Locality Awards 2019: Applications are now open for Councillors' Locality Awards in Mid Suffolk, inviting community groups, charities and organisations to apply for funding for 2019.</b> The programme means that each Mid Suffolk councillor has a £7,350 pot that he or she can use to award to projects or organisations, including community groups and charities, that have a direct impact on Mid Suffolk communities.</p> <p>Applicants selected for an award must be able to demonstrate that their project, event or group meets one or more of Mid Suffolk's Strategic Priorities and where relevant should be able to demonstrate its sustainability over the coming years. Applications must be submitted to ward members by 31 December 2019.</p> <p><b>Shepherd's Grove Development:</b> An updated Master Plan of the proposed Shepherd's Grove development is likely to be approved by West Suffolk Council in Jul and it will then be available for public consultation. The latest iteration of the plan details a mixed development of up to 380 houses and industrial units.</p> <p><b>Rick Meyer</b> Richard.meyer@midsuffolk.gov.uk</p>															
1	<p><b>Walsham le Willows Allotments &amp; Leisure Gardens Association</b></p> <p><b>Who owns the land where the allotment plots are situated?</b> The field is owned by the Walsham le Willows Old Town Trust making it our landlords. Rent is payable annually at the AGM in March.</p> <p><b>When was the Association formed?</b> In 2005, with the Old Town trust providing fencing, water supply, sheds and water butts.</p> <p><b>How are the allotments organised?</b> We have a Steering Committee, comprising of Secretary, Treasurer and other members, interested in helping out.</p> <p>2019: Walsham le Willows Allotment &amp; Leisure Gardeners Association Steering Committee General enquires - Steve Palmer (Plot 1) tel 07930576899 Treasurer - Jane Rolfe (Plot 2) tel 259785 John Ruddy (Plot 4) Secretary : Alison Findlay (Plot 9) 07704311468 Sarah Cousins (Plot 11) Events: Lisha and Phil Ewing (plot 13) Gordon (Plot 14) Debbie Watson (Plot 19)</p> <p><b>Plot sizes</b></p> <table data-bbox="296 1451 1331 1592"> <tr> <td>Full plot</td> <td>approximately 4 yards x 80 yards includes shed &amp; 1 water butt</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Half plot</td> <td>approximately 4 yards x 40 yards includes shed &amp; 1 water butt – to be shared by plot holders</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Small plot</td> <td>approximately 4 yards x 10 yards</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Plot fees</b> Plot fees are paid annually in March. <i>It is an Association requirement that new tenants pay a full years rent &amp; a refundable deposit (depending on the condition of the plot at the end of their tenancy).</i></p> <table data-bbox="296 1738 903 1843"> <tr> <td>Full plot</td> <td>£82 per year</td> <td>Deposit £50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Half plot</td> <td>£41 per year</td> <td>Deposit £25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Small plot</td> <td>£15 per year</td> <td>Deposit £10</td> </tr> </table> <p>Fees cover rent, Insurance (Public Liability &amp; sheds &amp; contents), affiliation to the RHS, water rates and maintenance and/or replacement of equipment and sheds.</p> <p><b>Sheds, Keys and Equipment</b> For those members with a full or half plot you will have the bonus of a shed and water butt.</p>	Full plot	approximately 4 yards x 80 yards includes shed & 1 water butt	Half plot	approximately 4 yards x 40 yards includes shed & 1 water butt – to be shared by plot holders	Small plot	approximately 4 yards x 10 yards	Full plot	£82 per year	Deposit £50	Half plot	£41 per year	Deposit £25	Small plot	£15 per year	Deposit £10
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	<p>The shed must be kept in good condition throughout the tenancy. All contents of the shed are the member's responsibility. Your key will also give access to the equipment shed. The Association equipment consists of a rotavator, lawnmower, strimmer, portable water hose and BBQ which is free for all members to use. There is also a first aid kit. Lost keys must be replaced by the tenant.</p> <p><b>Working Parties, Summer BBQ and Events</b></p> <p>Once or twice a year we try to encourage as many members to come along to a working party to give the site a general tidy up (normally April &amp; October) which entails tidying around the fence and behind shed areas, and general helping each other out on bigger projects – we also have a communal bonfire. It is a good day for meeting new members, catching up over a cup of tea and in the light of the amount of chatter, amazingly a lot gets done!</p> <p>Summer BBQ – just bring your own meat and drinks. We ask that a salad or dessert is brought along to share – a fun afternoon, which gently slips into a summer evening for those who wish to stay longer – all welcome.</p> <p>We endeavour to become part of the Walsham le Willows community in August, namely opening our plots to the public for the annual Open Gardens Weekend. Although at this particular time of year our produce and plots have probably past their best display we receive many compliments of how welcoming and organised we are. A Pimms &amp; Produce tent was a good source of raising funds and we will endeavour to make it a date on the calendar.</p> <p><b>Clarkes of Walsham Discount</b></p> <p>Clarkes offer 10% discount in their Garden Store to all members. Just give your name and plot number. AF May 19</p>
2	<b>Bell Ringers - TBA</b>
3	<p><b>Children's Praise and Parochial Church Council</b></p> <p>The Parochial Church Council retains responsibility for the extended churchyard; as usual the benefice managed to pay its way in the last year by raising the £60k required; thanks were given to the Parish Council for maintaining the Closed Churchyard and to Gardens Weekend Committee and the Church Fayre and all the helpers at these events that raise significant sums for the church. The PCC has a full quota of members and two churchwardens which has not been the case for quite some time. The Church maintains its links to the school with participation in assemblies and provision of services in church. There are also links with the local care home in Westhorpe where local primary school children go to sing to residents. The Church now has a magnificent new organ and new toilets are planned. Bishops have visited a few times recently and taken part in school assemblies and church services. The Church manages to maintain a good range of services across the benefice with all festivals being covered as well as the provision of workshops for younger people in Walsham. There is an Elders team who assists Philip plus assistants from other parishes. A new editor for the Hexagon has recently been appointed.</p>
4	<b>Community Council &amp; Coffee Shop - TBA</b>
5	<p>Community Lunch</p> <p>The first Community lunch was held in February 2017 and there were about 14-15 people there. Everyone enjoyed the lunch and we asked them if they would like to do it again. We received a unanimous yes so here we are two years plus and going strong.</p>

	<p>There are approximately about 35 people there. They enjoy meeting up with people they don't see very often and it is good to have a natter.</p> <p>The lunch is usually on the second Monday of every month except for June &amp; July when the school uses the hall for their end of year play. So we move to the second Tuesday for both months.</p> <p>Everyone is welcome, people bring friends with them also neighbouring villages. There is a lovely atmosphere and we are going from strength to strength.</p>
6	<p><b>Drama Group</b></p> <p>For those of you who don't know, the Walsham Drama Group was formed in 1993, by a group of friends from the village. The first meeting was advertised in the Observer, and a staggering 25 people turned up to express interest. Many of these people have remained with the group, forming a strong framework of skills and ideas. Young people have come and gone, winning the 'Aaah factor' when they start, often progressing to bigger parts, before leaving us to pursue further education, or a more demanding social life!</p> <p>The group has put on productions since it started. The majority of the shows have been home spun pantomimes, although we have done variety nights, a highly successful production of Lionel Bart's 'Oliver', a Christmas show and a Murder Mystery. Our last production, an evening of letters accompanied by a three-course meal and an Auction of Promises, raised over £3000 for the Epilepsy Society.</p> <p>The Drama Group keeps, as its main aim, the production of high quality dramatic art, just as long as everyone enjoys themselves! It has no constitution, no formal committee or fundraising commitment. Excess profits are donated by common consent to local good causes.</p> <p>We're currently not in rehearsal, as our executive producers Ron and Reg Hench are currently performing at HMP Dartmoor, but they've asked me to remind you of their motto – "We know where you live"!</p> <p>Now, just in case I haven't bored you sufficiently, and going off-piste a little, I am going to put in a plea on behalf of the Community Bus. I understand that the Parish Council have turned down an application for funding, but following Councillor Meyer's comments about £7000 being available for our area, perhaps it might be a time to reconsider that decision, given that an increasing number of people in the village are now using the bus, particularly following withdrawal of the Tesco free bus.</p>
7	<p><b>Gardens Weekend</b></p> <p>Thank you for your support of the Gardens Weekend. Yesterday we had our first meeting for the event this year so activity has started. Originally set up by ALec Russell, 39 years ago, to support the church since the event has been a great success earning sizeable amounts of funds ; since 2004 the Committee has distributed £78,500 to the church and a further £67,000 to village organisations. Our main concern is recruiting sufficient helpers to man the car parks and help in the Village Hall and Priory Room. Help here would be much appreciated.</p>
8	<p><b>Walsham Village History Group</b></p> <p>The Walsham Village History Group was formed in the early 1980's when <u>Dr. Stanley West</u>, then the County Archaeologist and living in Walsham, located the sites of several medieval</p>

	<p>houses around Cranmer Green. Wishing to find other sites he gathered a small group of local enthusiasts and, over the next few years, field-walked all the available land in the parish teaching them how to spot, identify and record their finds of pottery shards and worked flints. Today, nearly forty years on, Walsham Village History Group continues to thrive with over seventy members, both in this village and further afield, including a dog called Freddie who attends meetings with his master.</p> <p>In March the long serving committee stepped down and this village owes a debt of gratitude for their dedication in researching, preserving and raising awareness of the rich and varied history of our village. A new committee of just four to replace the previous ten is now in place to take their work forward and what big shoes we have to fill !</p> <p>Frances Jenner - Chair, Secretary, Programme Secretary  Shirley Luscombe – Treasurer, Membership Secretary  Jean Davies – Researcher, Recorder  John Martineau - Publications, Social Media, ICT</p> <p>Currently the group continues to present a programme of talks and outings throughout the year featuring a number of well-respected speakers who talk on a wide range of history based topics, some of local interest, for example, in May our own Fraser Harrison delivered a fascinating talk on the philosopher, revolutionary and activist Thomas Paine, while in October local historian and author Sarah Doig will talk on the Reading Rooms of Suffolk and Norfolk with reference to our own Reading Rooms in Walsham. We also provide the Quarterly Review for members, each of which focuses on a different aspect of history in Walsham.</p> <p>The group also maintains a number of excellent publications written by previous committee members, which are for sale and we hope to add to this number ourselves in the future. We also now have our own tab on the village website, where for those of you who are unaware there is a huge amount of information on the history of this village. We regularly receive enquiries from people trying to trace their family history and due to the miracle of technology we are able to e.mail such information as Parish Registers and Probate Wills going back to 1396 across the world to help people with their searches.</p> <p>One of our first decisions as a committee was to ensure that the remaining village archives were brought together and stored centrally in one place as many of our archives are now stored in Bury St Edmunds, which is not so easily accessible. However following some excellent liaising with the Community Council the remaining archives have now found a permanent home in the Memorial Village Hall. Today we welcomed a couple visiting from France and were able to sit with them in the MVH and go through the Parish Records.</p> <p>Looking to the future the history group is committed to preserving the heritage of this village both past and present. Each and every day we are making history and it is so important that as well as celebrating the rich and varied past of this village we also capture the current day to day happenings of historical interest, so that they are not lost but recorded for future generations to learn from and enjoy.</p>
9	<p><b>Horticultural Show 2019</b></p> <p>The Horticultural Show takes place on the second Saturday of August every year. This year’s show will be on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August. It is organised by a committee and I am the Show Secretary. Last year we had a total of 302 entries, the cost of entry to take part in the Show and to enter it has not gone up for many years, the money raised from the raffle and the teas means that we break even every year.</p>



	<p>The Show is open to everyone living in the parish of Walsham le Willows. This year there are 77 classes: Cookery, Flower Arranging, Photography, Knitting, Woodwork, Eggs &amp; Honey as well as the more well-known Flowers, Fruit and Vegetables.</p> <p>The judges are independent and all come from outside the village. We were told by one of the judges the year before last, that the Walsham le Willows Show is considered one of the best village shows in the County.</p> <p>There are 12 cups to be won – as well as the cups for the most points in the Floral, Fruit and Vegetable and Baking classes, there are cups for photography and flower arranging. The Novice Flower Arranging Cup has opened up the whole Flower Arranging section to a much wider group, while the Sunflower Cup for the tallest sunflower growing in the village is keenly contested, the Sunflowers are measured <i>in situ</i> the day before the show. Two years ago we took on responsibility for the Village Hanging Basket Competition which is also judged the day before the Show.</p> <p>WE HAVE AMAZING TEAS at the Show, so please can everyone in this room encourage a neighbour to come along this year and have a cup of tea and a look, that way we hope they might come back and enter something next year.</p> <p>We try to have a class for everyone in the village, whether you are a Photographer or a Gardener, a Schoolchild or a Mum who Bakes. Everyone is encouraged to have a go and to join in. We are always very keen to get new entrants. We are particularly keen to get more entries from children, this year we are encouraging them with a fun class to make a miniature garden, so if you have a child or a grandchild under the age of 11 who lives in the village, do encourage them to join in and have a go.</p> <p>Details will be in the July Observer, and on the Walsham website.  <b>This year's show will be on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2019.</b></p>
10	<p><b>Parish Meeting – Neighbourhood Watch 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019</b></p> <p>I have voluntarily run the Walsham le Willows Neighbourhood Watch since last Autumn, taking over from Ken Stockton. It is registered with the Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association which is itself registered with the Neighbourhood Watch Network, a registered charity.</p> <p>My objective is to keep villagers informed of local crime trends and offer advice through the means of a monthly post in the Observer. I am also open to being contacted by villagers who may be seeking advice.</p> <p>There are minimal financial implications to running the scheme, other than so far paying for signage to be updated for which I have been promised reimbursement from our Mid Suffolk Councillor's Locality Budget.</p> <p>If anybody has an expectation of how the scheme could be run in a different way, please let me know. However, it is not intended that I patrol the streets looking out for misdemeanours. I don't have any special way of contacting the Police or of receiving information. Everything I find out is publicly available through internet research. Also, if you feel motivated, you can set up a scheme for your own street or close.</p>

	<p>The Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association is holding its AGM in July which should give me an opportunity to do some networking and maybe bring back some ideas.</p> <p>David Murray.</p>
11	<b>Observer - TBA</b>
12	<p><b>Play Council</b></p> <p>The Play Council are ultimately aiming to source and help fundraise towards some new, much needed play equipment in the park. Over the past 10-12months we have tried to raise the profile of the park and engage local peoples interest by starting a FaceBook page for the park, seeking ideas and opinions. We also organised a 'Rock the Park' event for Gardens weekend.</p> <p>We have made repairs to play equipment and have had to sadly remove some vandalised equipment.</p> <p>Not least of all, was the huge undertaking of the safe removal and disposal of the Skate Ramps, which were deemed unsafe in the last ROSPA report.</p> <p>We have sought the opinion of local people and children by way of FaceBook polls and a survey given to school children to provide an accurate picture what people and children in the village would like to see in the park. Popular ideas (amongst many!) are outdoor gym equipment, new skate ramps and swings, especially toddler suitable ones.</p> <p>The next stage is to approach planners with this information and begin to source funding.</p>
13	<p><b>Poppy Project</b></p> <p>In 2017 Fiona Glover and I thought it would be a good idea to decorate the outside of the church with poppies, to commemorate Remembrance Day.</p> <p>With the help of many ladies in the village, over 6000 poppies were produced, attached to netting, and draped from the top of the church tower. The response from the community, and the media, was immense, and featured on BBC 'Look East'.</p> <p>Following that success, in 2018, for the centenary celebrations of the end of the First World War, and with a further 4000 poppies knitted and crocheted by our helpers, we decorated the interior columns, the pulpit and font of St Mary's, as well draping the entrance. The overall effect was stunning and brought the poppies into closer focus for the public at large, and raised a considerable amount for St. Mary's through the sale of tea, coffee and cake.</p> <p>Without the support of the Walsham ladies (and one gentleman), the support of Philip and the Church, and the financial backing of the Gardens Weekend committee, the project would never have succeeded. The 10,000 poppies have been boxed and stored and will come out again this year, in a display yet to be decided.</p>
14	<p><b>Pre-School</b></p> <p>This report was not given at the meeting – apologies were received</p>
15	<p><b>Walsham le Willows CEVC Primary School 2018-2019</b></p> <p>The school currently has 133 pupils as a couple of families have left the area.</p> <p>The staffing is as follows:</p> <p>1 Head Teacher Full Time, 3 Teachers Full Time, 1 Teacher 2 days, 1 Teacher 4.5 days, 1 Office Support Full Time, 4 Teaching Assistants Full Time, 2 Teaching Assistants 3 days, 1 Teaching Assistant 4 days. From September we will have another teacher on 3 days and one on 2 days.</p> <p>We were very pleased with the Year 6 SATs results from last year with 80% of pupils achieving the expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths.</p>

	<p>A range of trips have been made during the year including year 4 residential, a pantomime, Harry Potter Studios, Africa Alive, West Stow and a sleepover at the Science museum. On Friday, some Year 6 pupils are going on a day trip to France and some will be going to see Matilda in Norwich.</p> <p>The School continues to support a number of charities including Jeans for Genes, Sports Relief and the NSPCC. Activities in school have included Beowulf at the Apex. Others included science days, Living Eggs and Sports Days.</p> <p>In April we unveiled a new mosaic which had been designed and made by the children along with RoJo Art. It is linked with our new school vision "Each of us takes a unique path through life but where we spend our childhood we soak up community, goodness and knowledge; learning what we need for the future, and the fruit our lives will produce."</p> <p>Friends of Walsham School continue to raise funds for the school by putting on events and the Christmas and Summer Fayre.</p> <p>The School continues to develop links with the Church through attendance and involvement in Remembrance, Harvest Festival, Christmas and Easter services. There is also an 'End of Year' service, this year on Wednesday 24th July. The Choir has been very busy again this year, singing at Westhorpe Care Home and the Church Fayre. Tickets are on sale for the summer concert with the Bury St Edmunds Youth Concert Band on Saturday 13th July in the village hall and we would love to see lots of you there.</p> <p>There are a range of school clubs including sports clubs and the choir.</p>
16	<p><b>Stanton and District Branch Royal British Legion</b></p> <p>Meetings are held in the Cock Inn Stanton on the second Tuesday every month at 8pm. Sadly one member passed away during the year Mrs Linda Hillion.</p> <p>Membership stands at 62.</p> <p>The branch is part of "C" Group made up of 6 Branches, Bury St Edmunds, Felsham and Gedding Horringer, Ixworth, Hopton and Stanton. Bacton and Haughley have now been invited to join our group.</p> <p>At the County Conference on 27 January 2018, held in Needham Market the branch received an award for donating the most money in 2017 to the County Benevolent Fund, the amount totalling £1500.00.</p> <p>At the County Conference on 26 January 2019 the branch was again given an award for donating the most money, more than any other Suffolk Branch during 2018, totalling £2,000.00.</p> <p>As a result of the Festival of Remembrance held in the Apex in November 2018 £4,062.00 was donated to the Poppy Appeal. The expenses for the evening amounted to £2656.80p made up of the following:</p> <p>Cost of hiring the Apex £1,300.00.</p> <p>Using Apex Equipment £407.00.</p> <p>Commission for the sale of Theatre tickets £507.00 and VAT £442.80.</p> <p>We have already paid a deposit to hire the Apex in November 2019 .</p> <p>During the year we held various fundraising events such as Coffee Mornings, Bingo and a Sausage and Mash Evening.</p> <p>The branch also received a donation of £522.73 from Walsham Community Council, which was 50% from the sale of the 2018 Least We Forget Calendars produced by Ian Toulson.</p> <p>It is important that we continue holding money raising events for the support required to help our Armed Forces, the need has never been greater.</p> <p>The branch standard was paraded on 8 occasions. Two of which were at St Edmundsbury Cathedral for the WW1 Centenary and Remembrance Sunday at St Mary the Virgin Walsham Le Willows. On the 8th November at 11am every WW1 grave in the UK had a wooden cross placed on it, our branch was responsible for 10 graves 2 in Bardwell, 1 in</p>

	<p>Rickinghall, 5 in Wattisfield and 2 at Walsham,. School children from the villages were involved and took part in the short services, children from Walsham School were in Wattisfield and Walsham cemeteries.</p> <p>We also supported our friends from the Thetford branch of RAFA at St Ethelbert's Church East Wretham in memory of Czechoslovak and Polish airman buried in the church yard there. These airmen would have flown on missions from both East Wretham and Honington.</p> <p>As guests of RAFA we were invited to RAF Honington on 2 occasions:  22<sup>nd</sup> March a Cheese and Wine Evening.  5<sup>th</sup> December A Christmas meal.</p> <p>Members also supported our friends from Ixwoth at their Annual Dinner in March.</p> <p>Working with the Hopton branch we held a Drop In morning once a month for 6 months, although this did not prove successful.</p> <p>In December we brought the year to a close with a Christmas lunch.</p> <p>Branch funds at 31 December 2018 were £1,368.94.</p> <p>Herbert Frost  Branch Vice Chairman.</p>
17	<p><b>Sports Club Report</b></p> <p>I would first like to add how thrilled we were at the Sports Club to participate in the investiture of the Suffolk Medal last week to our president Richard Martineau so forgive us if we bask in some reflected glory. Where the Sports Club is today is very much as a result of the assistance we have received over the years from the Martineau family not least in this latest change in our structure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 1<sup>st</sup> will see Walsham Le Willows ( CIO) Charitable Incorporated Organisation Charity No 1178033 take over all assets and responsibilities of Walsham Le Willows Sports Club (CASC) Community Amateur Sports Club .</li> <li>• A new company WLWSC Ltd Reg No. 11433820 wholly owned by the CIO will assume the operation of the bar at the Club. This was a requirement from the Charity Commissioners in approving the CIO.</li> <li>• The Club will continue to be managed by the Central Committee on behalf of the trustees of the CIO. The bar will be the responsibility of the directors of the trading company under a lease from the CIO</li> </ul> <p>What has happened in the past year since reporting to you last:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walking football to exercise the male of the species of a certain age has continued to flourish and has now been added to by walking netball for the ladies and has been embraced by a surprising number. Whether the genders will eventually morph into combined sports activity is always possible. What I would say is that the social element benefit can clearly be heard by the hum of conversation that fills the clubhouse during the refreshments after the events.</li> <li>• Just before Christmas the Club undertook to organise on behalf of the village 'The Great Run Local', which now takes place from the Sports Club at 9am every Sunday morning. Sadly for me as Treasurer there is no income attached to it only the pleasure of knowing that yet another beneficial activity is taking place for the Community; to see such a wide age range and genders plus dogs out in the fresh air has to be good. Numbers are steadily growing with over 60 people last Sunday.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Club made a further investment, helped by MSDC and Town Farm Charity, of £24,000 in May with the installation of a two bay all weather cricket nets to assist in the development of young cricketers. The reward for all of us should be the sight on a Friday evening of a playing field of youngsters in their All Stars kit getting coached – hats off to the senior players who give of their time to do this. The additional numbers of girls and boys wanting to play has resulted in a lot more matches being fixed against other teams – anyone reading about the gradual demise of village cricket should note it is not happening in Walsham!</li> </ul> <p>It is probably unnecessary to remind the Parish that apart from paying bar staff and for cleaning the Club, everything else is done by volunteers. We have a turnover of around £200,000 per year and a complexity of activities to manage so will always welcome any member of the community who can give some of their time to help.</p> <p>It is impossible to quantify the benefit of sport for the wellbeing of family life in this village but my guess is - it is substantial.</p>
18	<b>Women's Institute - TBA</b>