

Annual Meeting of the Parish 2024

The annual meeting of the parish was held on Monday the 11th March 6:30 until 8:30 and was attended by Jessica Fleming, County Councillor, Richard Winch, District Councillor, parish councillors and thirteen members of the public. Thank you to everyone who gave their time to enjoy nibbles and open discussion about the village in 2024. It is really helpful to share ideas and suggestions and to look for ways to maintain or improve life in our community.

Flooding:

Issues were raised with drainage and ditches and water flowing along roads (The Causeway). It was noted that a considerable amount of ditch digging and clearing is being undertaken and that this could increase flow onto roads or into the stream potentially causing further flooding for residents.

Suffolk County Council's Highway reporting tool was explained. This can be found on the village website.

Jessica Fleming informed the meeting that SCC are meeting with NFU, Environment Agency and Anglian Water to discuss ways water can be held back or slowed as part of their response to the flooding

Community Emergency Plan

The purpose of the plan was explained by Ann Brookes who is coordinating the plan. A draft plan was discussed and adopted on Wednesday at the monthly Parish Council Meeting with further modifications to follow once SCC have produced their template. The next step is to have a public meeting to gather volunteers to assist with implementing the emergency plan under the direction of the Response Team.

The Memorial Hall has been identified by SCC as a potential rest space if required- the power wall and solar panels should provide some short term emergency electricity once installed.

Traffic

Ways to alleviate and calm traffic was identified as an objective for the PC at the previous Annual Meeting of the Parish in May 2023

Since then the Walsham Community Traffic Group has been formed to operate as a working group to support the Parish Council. A survey was carried out to collate the views of any members of the parish who wished to respond. The results have been analysed and a detailed draft proposal is being created for consultation. It was explained that this proposal contains 20mph limit suggestions but has broader traffic calming measures too. Jessica Fleming agreed to ask representatives from SCC Highways to be involved in the consultation process.

Footpaths

RW spoke about MSDC plans for footpaths in the village to promote cycling and walking.

Bus Service

The need for a small addition to the bus timetable, maybe even 1 bus a day on certain days of the week to allow for trips into Bury of a sensible duration was discussed at the request of a resident.

Also the need for youngsters to get into the cinema or music venues by bus was also noted

SCC are currently consulting on transport - Suffolk's Local Transport Plan

Richard Winch suggested how Walsham could work with Badwell Ash to pursue bus routes and he will see if their Parish Council is interested in this joint project.

Objectives for 2024/25

1. To take part in Section 19 review of Flooding
2. To pursue actions from Walsham's Traffic proposal
3. To establish Community Emergency Plan
4. To follow up on proposed footpaths with MSDC and SCC
5. To continue to monitor plans at Shepherd's Grove

UPDATE:

Objectives as agreed and minuted at [Parish Council meeting held on 13 March 2024](#)

b) The outcomes of the Annual Question Time public meeting were considered and the following objectives were set for 2024/25:

- i. Section 19 review of Flooding in partnership with SCC
- ii. Actions from Walsham Community Traffic group proposal
- iii. Establish Community Emergency plan
- iv. Follow up on proposed footpath developments with MSDC and SCC
- v. Monitor development plans at Shepherd's Grove
- vi. Possible consulting more widely on bus routes
- vii. Completion & engagement with joint local plan part ii