

# Little Ellingham News

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## Parish Council Meetings

The next meeting of the Council will be on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019** beginning at 7.30pm. Parishioners are welcome to attend all Council meetings, where they are allowed to speak, during the Open Forum, which is for a short time usually at the start of the meeting. Look out for the agenda displayed during the previous week.

## Little Ellingham Parish Council

Following the recent Town and Parish Council Elections that took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019, Little Ellingham has had a shake up in regard to its councillors that represent the Parish.

We said a sad farewell to long standing members Richard Baker, Ian Baggott and Gordon Greenwood. All have given long term support to the Parish and Richard held the role as Chairman for very many years. We would like to thank Richard, Ian and Gordon for their commitment and service over the years.

The Parish Council welcomed two new members to the Council in the form of Sarah Drewery and Simon Atherton. We are pleased that both Sarah and Simon are enthusiastic and passionate about our Parish and we look forward to the work they undertake in the future.

The Parish Council does have one vacancy to fill and therefore if you have an interest in your community and would like to join the Parish Council then we would be pleased to hear from you. Please contact the Parish Clerk at contact details overleaf.

## Your Councillors are:

Caroline Rebisz (Chairman), Peter Griffiths (Vice Chair), Sarah Drewery and Simon Atherton

All can be contacted via the **Clerk:** Melanie Eversfield  
19 Willow Close, Brundall, Norfolk NR13 5PZ  
Email: little.ellingham@gmail.com Tel: 01603 712943

**County Councillor:** Mr Edward Connolly  
Email: ed.connolly.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

**District Councillor:** Sarah Suggitt  
Email: sarah.suggitt@breckland.gov.uk

**The Council's website is:**  
<https://littleellinghampc.wixsite.com/littleellinghampc>

The editor Melanie Eversfield, email: little.ellingham@gmail.com welcomes your comments and village news about events, etc. Please submit information for the next issue **no later than 26<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

## Parish Council Website

The website <https://littleellinghampc.wixsite.com/littleellinghampc> contains Minutes, Agendas, past newsletters and financial information regarding the Parish Council. It is regularly updated.

## Dates for your diary

Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019 – 7.30pm – Old School Hall

### **An update regarding Kerry Foods and its planning application**

You will be aware of the Kerry Foods planning submission which is currently under consideration with Breckland Council. The planning reference number is 3PL/2019/0467/VAR and can be viewed on Breckland Council's planning website (please enter link)

The Parish Council met on 15th May to discuss the submission and we had a good turnout from the village. It was great to see the number of attendees and the level of conversation around objections to the proposal and ideas to mitigate the impact on the village.

The Parish Council has reviewed the feedback from the meeting and will use this to enter our comments on the planning website. This will also form our position at the Planning Committee when this takes place.

We have also contacted our local MP George Freeman. George agreed to meet with representatives of the Parish Council to discuss our concerns and this meeting took place on 17th May. We were delighted with the support George is offering us. He clearly understood the impact on our village and the need to balance the needs of a business with the well-being of the residents.

George proposed that he calls a meeting with Kerry Foods, Little Ellingham Parish Council, Great Ellingham Parish Council and Breckland Council to discuss the submission and the key objections of the village. Our aim is to agree a number of conditions which would minimise the impact on our village. The meeting has been agreed for 14th June and we already have confirmation that the key representatives are attending. The meeting will not be an open meeting but restricted to those invited to represent the various bodies.

The main areas we have outlined to George and Kerry Foods which we aim to discuss are covering:

- > Odour and the need for this submission to be delayed to allow the new filtration system to be installed, tested and validated prior to any request for expansion.
- > Noise and the need for a more suitable sound barrier or baffle to be installed to prevent the noise which has been increasing recently.
- > Light pollution and the need for a more environmentally friendly approach to keeping our skies as dark as possible.

- > Traffic, speed and litter. There is a need for Kerry Foods staff to be more aware of the environment beside their place of employment and treat the village and countryside with respect.
- > Soil Pollution. The recent practise of disposal of effluent waste over farmland in the parish is under investigation by the Environment Agency and we would like this practise to be discontinued to allow the local environment to recover.
- > Hours of Operation. The current submission is looking to expand the new kitchen to 24/7 and the parish council would then be looking for restrictions to be placed on the old kitchen to restrict the hours of operation.

Once the meeting takes place, we will arrange to update parishioners at our next meeting on 3rd July.

I can also advise that Breckland Council have delayed the decision on this application until late July to allow this meeting to take place. In the meantime, villagers are still able to voice their concerns via the planning website mentioned above.

### **Tell the Parish Council what you would like to see in the Parish!**

Each year Town and Parish Councils are invited by Norfolk County Council to submit bids for highway improvement schemes.

Norfolk County Council has again provisionally allocated £325,000 on a 50/50 basis, with an upper limit on Norfolk County Council funding support of £25,000 per bid, to fund schemes put forward by Town and Parish Councils to deliver projects that are priorities for local communities.

Recently this scheme has part funded the flashing sign (SAM2) that you will have seen pop up around the Parish this past couple of weeks.

The types of highway improvements that can be bid for are as follows: -

- Small lengths of formal footway
- Trods (a simplified and low cost footway)
- Improved crossing facilities
- Improvements to Public Rights of Way

- Flashing signs to tackle speeding (Speed Awareness Mobile Signs (SAM2))
- Part-time 20mph signs with flashing warning lights outside schools
- “Keep Clear” carriageway markings outside schools
- New Bus Shelters.

The Parish Council would like to know what residents of the Parish would like to see us bid for to be implemented in 2020/2021. Please let the Clerk know your thoughts, ideas and suggestions via email at [little.ellingham@gmail.com](mailto:little.ellingham@gmail.com) by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

**What should you do if you discover fly-tipped waste after the tippers have left?**

- Do not touch the waste - Fly-tipped waste can be dangerous - it may contain syringes, broken glass, asbestos toxic chemicals or other hazardous substances
- Try to determine what and how much waste there is
- Take note of the exact location and the time you discovered the waste
- Do not disturb the site: there may be evidence that could help identify the culprits and lead to their prosecution
- Write the details down as soon as possible and report it on line. (<https://www.breckland.gov.uk/flytip>) You may be asked to help make a written statement about what you saw.

**Dogs in the countryside and Little Ellingham!**

- Keep your dog under close control.
- You and your dog should both keep to the line of the path.
- Please clean up after your dog both in the countryside and on pavements. Fouling is illegal – Including in the Churchyard!
- Please keep your dog on a lead when livestock are in fields.



**Bottle Bank in Village Hall Car Park**

The Village Hall Committee would like to remind residents that there is a bottle bank in the village hall car park for everybody’s use. The Village Hall receives a payment for this, so please support your local village hall by using the bottle bank and help raise much needed funds.

**How to report Highway problems**

Residents can report problems relating to the Highway online via Norfolk County Council’s website at the address below: -

**<https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/HighwaysDefect/>**

Things such as pot holes, pavements, trees and verges and flooding can be reported. Please do not assume that someone has already reported the issue you come across. You can also check the website above to see if it has already been reported.

**Kerry Foods Complaints Process**

It is important that any parishioners who experience an issue with the Kerry Foods operation, report their concerns on the phone number previously communicated (01953 852600).

These complaints are logged by Kerry Foods and reviewed by Breckland Council to understand the impact on our local community. It also ensures that Kerry Foods and your Parish Council can address the issues which are important to our parishioners.

We know that some parishioners also email Tom Connell at Kerry Foods with issues and this route can also be used to log any concerns. Tom Connell has recently retired and therefore you can now email Paul Dauny at [Paul.Dauny@kerryfoods.co.uk](mailto:Paul.Dauny@kerryfoods.co.uk)

To ensure the Parish Council has full visibility of concerns raised, we would ask that you email a brief summary of the issue to the Parish Clerk or Chairman on the following email addresses. We are keeping a record of all complaints which we will use to discuss and follow up

actions with both Kerry Foods and Breckland Council.

Parish Clerk – [little.ellingham@gmail.com](mailto:little.ellingham@gmail.com)

Chairman – [crebisz7@googlemail.com](mailto:crebisz7@googlemail.com)

### **Farmland in the Parish of Little Ellingham**

We would like to bring to the attention of parishioners that the boundary grass areas round fields are in specified Environment Schemes. These are very specific and not for access to people to walk or exercise their dogs. Please use the network of footpaths and comply with the Countryside Code. Any person found trespassing on these areas or elsewhere may be prosecuted. Walking any dog, you should by law carry poo bags and pick up after your dog. The dog cannot do this, it is the responsibility of the owner.

However, Farmers and Landowners have clear responsibilities relating to the maintenance of public rights of way, and you can read about these at <http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/out-and-about-in-norfolk/public-rights-of-way/about-public-rights-of-way>

### **A Message from Norfolk Constabulary regarding Rural Crime**

#### **Emerging Crime pattern**

In the Broadland and North Norfolk areas, tractors, horse trailers, quad bikes and agricultural machinery have been targeted by thieves. We believe these are not opportunistic crimes but rather pre-planned with a known buyer or end destination already agreed. Please be vigilant, take number plates of vehicles seen and report any suspicious activity.

#### **Livestock thefts**

Over the last couple of months there has been an increase in livestock thefts in the county with sheep and fattening lambs being stolen. The thefts have occurred in plain sight. As yet no animals have been recovered but we continue to try to identify the offenders and work with Trading Standards, Defra, sheep farmers and the National Sheep Association in relation to these offences.

Theft of poultry remains an issue. We believe the offenders are local to the locations of the crime and we continue to investigate.

#### **Crime prevention**

Please remember to take all possible precautions to ensure your property does not become an easy target for criminals. Lock windows and doors, remove keys from vehicles and ensure your property is marked so in the event it is stolen and recovered, it can be returned. Consider placing tracking devices into valuable movable property and taking photographs of items of value. For more advice please contact me and I will arrange for one of our crime prevention officers to provide further advice.

#### **How to contact us**

Information is vital and can be shared with us on 101 or by telephoning Crimestoppers on 0800 555 1111 or 0800 783 0137. Information can also be passed directly to any officer or emailed to me at [baileyv@norfolkpnn.police.uk](mailto:baileyv@norfolkpnn.police.uk) or [operationrandall@norfolkpnn.police.uk](mailto:operationrandall@norfolkpnn.police.uk) All information received will be treated in the strictest confidence.

### **Little Ellingham Parish Council – Chairman's Report May 2019**

I have completed 12 months as the Chairman of the Parish Council with deputy Peter Griffiths. The year has seen several challenges and issues for the Parish Council to deal with, both raised by villagers at Open Forum or via email into either the Chairman or Parish Clerk.

Communication with the parish appears to be working well. We have attendance at Parish Council meetings, the village notice boards are regularly updated, the local Facebook page is being used to highlight activity and the email address of both Chairman and Clerk are used to flag any concerns. The following list of activity is not exhaustive but represents the key areas of activity completed or underway during the last 12 months:

#### **Parish Councillors**

- At March's meeting we accepted the resignation of former Chairman Councillor Richard Baker and Councillor Ian Baggott. Councillor Gordon Greenwood resigned outside of the meeting. The Parish Council would like to recognise the commitment and support given over a number of

years by Richard, Ian and Gordon and wish them every success for the future.

- At May's election we welcome two new councillors to the parish in Sarah Dewery and Simon Atherton who will be joining myself and Peter Griffiths as councillors for the parish.
- We currently have a vacancy for an additional councillor and would welcome applications to either the Chairman or Parish Clerk.

### **Kerry Foods**

- During the period we have worked with Breckland Council and Kerry Foods on the discharge of outstanding planning conditions. As part of this work the Parish Council employed the services of a third-party company, Adrian James Acoustics Ltd to review the noise report submitted by Kerry Foods to discharge this condition. Whilst the Parish Council continue to have some concerns in this area, Breckland District Council have agreed with Kerry Foods to discharge this condition.
- Odour has been a big issue over the last 12 months. At our meeting with Kerry Foods management team on 1<sup>st</sup> August, Scott Turner confirmed that independent tests had shown that the current system was inadequate and that he was seeking agreement from his Head Office for a £250k spend on a new system. This was agreed by Kerry Foods Head Office and is currently in the process of being installed. We have confirmation that this work should be completed and tested by the third week in June. We have continued to face complaints from parishioners during the period leading up to the installation and are hopeful that this spend by Kerry Foods will resolve the issue completely.
- As part of the discharge of conditions mentioned above, we have worked with Kerry Foods to shape the Community Liaison Scheme and had an initial meeting with Kerry Foods management team and Chairman of Great Ellingham Parish Council, Tim Betts to agree the format. The first meeting is scheduled to take place in June.
- We have worked with Tom O'Connell, Kerry Foods Health and Safety Manager to develop the complaints process which villagers can use to raise concerns and this has been highlighted at Parish Council meetings, within the Parish Newsletter and on Parish noticeboards. All complaints copied to Chairman and Parish Clerk are logged on our spreadsheet for use at the Liaison meetings.
- Chairman and Vice Chairman were invited to tour the premises hosted by Scott Turner and Tom O'Connell. This gave us the opportunity to see the

end to end operation. The Parish Council welcomed the chance to see inside the factory and understand better how we can work together to resolve any outstanding issues.

- We have engaged with the Environment Agency to raise concerns over the waste disposal process change within Kerry Foods and the impact on the local environment. This review by the Environment Agency is ongoing.
- Overall the relationship between Kerry Foods and the Parish Council has improved over the last 12 months and gives us a base to further this engagement going forward.

### **Village Hall**

- The Parish Council lost the services of Malcolm Robertshaw during this period as he moved home. Malcolm played a key role in managing the bookings for the hall and was available to open and close events.
- The hall is currently running at a loss as we do not have enough bookings in place to cover the maintenance costs. Reserves are being used to top up each fiscal year. This position cannot continue so we need to increase revenue and use of the hall.
- In January we held an Open Evening for the Village to come and share ideas about how we can use the hall more. This was a successful evening with several parishioners attending and sharing views. From the Open Evening we have found several individuals who are willing to support the hall informally.
- A Quiz night is being arranged for 3<sup>rd</sup> May as an initial attempt to increase village activity and income for the hall.
- The new Parish councillors will be meeting in June to look at the format of the committee going forward and what improvements we can make to the booking process. A new website is under design and an email address for the village hall is in place.

### **Development in Great Ellingham**

- We have been working closely with the chairs of both Great Ellingham Parish Council and Rocklands Parish Council along with George Freeman MP, representatives of Norfolk County Council and Breckland District Council on the housing development within Great Ellingham. The focus has been on the impact on infrastructure including highways and education.

### **Gressingham Foods**

- We met with Robert McTaggart of Gressingham Foods to raise issues raised around the lightning at the campsite on the Attleborough Road. A useful meeting which got this matter resolved.
- Robert then took forward an issue raised by a parishioner around the footpath which was overgrown near the duck farm on Wood Lane. This path was cleared by volunteers from Gressingham Foods.

### **Highways**

- SAM2 speed warning signs have been ordered and paid for with contribution from Norfolk CC. Locations within the village have been agreed and we are awaiting a date for installation.
- Various issues raised with Highways during the period covering mud on road, flooding and potholes.

### **Breckland Local Plan**

- A Local Plan covering future housing development across the county has been reviewed by Chairman and Vice Chairman and challenges submitted as part of the review process.

### **Great Britain Tidy Up**

- A Village Tidy Up was organised for Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April to clear rubbish from the village and the 4 roads leading into the Village.
- Kerry Foods have committed to involvement in this event.

As mentioned, the list above is not exhaustive but represents the key activities of the council in the last 12 months. I would like to offer my thanks to our Parish Clerk Melanie Eversfield and Vice Chair Peter Griffiths for their support and efforts during this period.

Caroline Rebisz - Chairman Little Ellingham Parish Council

### **THE FRIENDS OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH, LITTLE ELLINGHAM**

### **Report to Annual Parish Council meeting 15 May 2019**

2019 is the tenth anniversary of the Friends having been established. In the last ten years the Friends have been key to the delivery of a number of projects benefiting the church. These include the following:

- Major repairs to roofs, gutters, downpipes and stormwater drainage
- Clearance of the pond area in the churchyard
- Repair and re-erection of the weathervane
- Provision of a new noticeboard
- Construction of a tea point at the west end of the nave (currently underway)
- Maintenance of the churchyard including regular grass cutting, mole control and occasional tree surgery

Funding for all these projects has been raised from grants from English Heritage (now Historic England), Listed Places of Worship Scheme, Norfolk County Council, Breckland Council, charitable trusts (national as well as county based), but also most importantly by local fundraising – regular porch sales, biennial open gardens, lectures and of course the membership scheme operated by the Friends which is supported by people living in Little Ellingham as well as those further afield. In total, the Friends have raised well over £150k from all these different sources.

Looking forward to the next ten years, a quinquennial inspection is due this autumn, and this may highlight a need for further repairs to the fabric of the church. But other projects could include the provision of a permanent toilet now that the church is connected to the public sewer, and replacement of the roadside chain link fence which is becoming dilapidated and is not entirely appropriate as the backdrop to our parish church.

Dr Elizabeth Griffiths - Chairman, Friends of St Peter's Church

### **LITTLE ELLINGHAM PAROCHIAL CHARITIES** **REPORT to the ANNUAL MEETING of LITTLE ELLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL 15** **May 2019**

#### 1. Introduction

The Little Ellingham Town Lands and Educational Charity (Registration No. 1085528) and the Little Ellingham Relief in Need Charity (Registration No.

242733), both regulated by schemes approved by the Charity Commission, exist to relieve persons resident in the parish of Little Ellingham who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress by making grants of money or providing or paying for items, services or facilities calculated to reduce the need, hardship or distress of such persons. In addition, the Town Lands and Educational Charity provides financial assistance to parishioners to help them to pursue their education, or to enter a profession, trade, occupation or service on leaving school, university or another educational establishment.

**The charities are administered by trustees, four of whom are nominated by the Parish Council, three of whom are co-opted, whilst the incumbent of the Shellrock Benefice is an ex-officio trustee. Parish Council trustees are appointed for a term of four years, co-opted trustees serve five-year terms.**

The current Parish Council nominated trustees are Richard Baker, who acts as chairman, Peter Griffiths and Barrie Kay. The co-opted trustees are Christine Beber, Kevin Binks and Simon Reeve. The Reverend Dr Christina Mason is the ex-officio trustee.

The clerk to the trustees is Maurice Briggs.

The income of both charities is mainly derived from the letting of land and property. The Town Lands and Educational Charity owns some 23 acres of farmland, mostly a number of small fields along Crown Lane, let to three different tenants, and over which the shooting rights are tendered each year. The Relief in Need Charity owns the 32-acre Goose Common as well as the Coal House in Attleborough Road.

## 2. Property Management

During the course of the past 12 months, many of the brambles along the eastern boundary of Goose Common have been cut back in order to allow more light into the adjacent woodland, resulting in an increase in wildlife and in the number of song birds.

UK Power Networks have also cut back or pollarded trees interfering with the overhead electricity lines. In addition, high winds have caused a number of trees to come down or be damaged, and these have had to be made safe.

Grazing, as in previous years, has continued and half a dozen cattle or so will be back on the Common later this spring. Natural England, which oversees the 10-year Stewardship agreement, sees this as an important component of ongoing management and, following the annual inspection, has commended trustees on what has been achieved, whilst suggesting that more gorse needs to be cut back, especially where it encroaches on pathways.

In terms of repairs, Anglian Water required the water trough to be replaced as well as the concrete piers on which it stands. A new steel gate has also been provided. Looking ahead to the next 12 months, many of the posts supporting the boundary fence have rotted and will need to be replaced.

Repairs have also been undertaken to the Coal House, although it is anticipated that further work will be needed later this year.

## 3. Grants

During the previous financial year, 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, two applications for support from the Relief in Need Charity were received and approved by trustees. But no applications were received for support from the Town Lands and Educational Charity, nor were any payments made towards funeral expenses.

As is the case every year, the availability of these grants was publicised on the village notice boards, in Little Ellingham News and in the Ellingham Pump.

## 4. Finances

Each year a return is made to the Charity Commission, and income and expenditure is recorded, and is publicly available, on the Charity Commission website <http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk>.

The Trustees of the Little Ellingham Parochial Charities - April 2019

*St Peter*



*Little Ellingham*

Report for the Little Ellingham Parish Council 2019

As part of the Shellrock Benefice, the church of St Peter continues to provide two regular monthly services to the community of Little Ellingham:

Holy Communion at 10.30am on the first Sunday

Prayer and Praise at 6.30pm on the third Sunday

We take our turn hosting the Benefice Service of Holy Communion on the fourth Sunday when all the church congregations in the benefice come together to worship. This usually occurs twice each year.

We also hold a service for some of the special times in the church calendar such as Harvest and Christmas.

The churchyard is still open for burials. It is maintained by a band of volunteers for which we are very grateful.

We currently have two part-time priests, Revd Christina Mason, Priest-in-charge, and Revd Sue Strutt, Priest Associate. The current Parochial Church Council (PCC) comprises seven people, including the ministers. We have no church warden after Margaret Thomas decided not to stand for re-election, nor have we a Secretary. We are currently developing our relationship with the PCC of St James, Great Ellingham. This is in its early stages but it is hoped we can identify areas in which we can work together.

For the benefit of all people the church is opened each day by Gordon and Liz Greenwood. As a place of worship for over five hundred years, our church is a welcome place for anyone who wishes to pray or just experience its peace and tranquillity. So far, we have only had minor infringements of the trust we place on people not to abuse it.

As part of the Shellrock Benefice we support various charities such as the Thetford Foodbank and Christian Aid. As well as our own upkeep we contributed £3000 to the 2018 'Parish Share', the money the benefice pays the Diocese for its many services it provides, including our clergy.

Last July we held a very successful Flower Festival entitled 'One hundred years of change'.

With the help of The Friends of St Peter our 14<sup>th</sup> century church building is well maintained. In September of this year we have our Quinquennial Inspection. As with all Church of England church buildings, an Architect or Chartered Building Surveyor approved by the Diocese Advisory Committee inspects the building every five years. This inspection will provide the PCC with a full report on the condition of the church fabric with a summary of priorities and estimates of work required. It is a nervous time as any maintenance on our medieval building can be expensive.

With support from the Friends we are having water, sewage and a refreshment area installed in the church. Peter Griffiths has been Project Managing this development which includes raising the necessary funds. Work has already started and we hope to have this fully installed by this summer.

Our church of St Peter has been central to the life of many generations of village people. In common with many rural churches, it is not an easy task to keep our church viable. The PCC, with the support of the Friends and the local community, will endeavour to maintain this Christian presence in the village for future generations. We thank everyone for their continued support. Colin Thomas, acting Secretary.