

ANNUAL REPORT FOR PARISH ASSEMBLY 3rd MARCH 2020

This year's Report begins with Chairman Mr. Fred Keer continuing his position as Chairman being nominated as the New Chairman at the May 2019 AGM. His term has been a big learning curve for him, and he has taken on the role admirably. He has kept a tight rein on the budget and very much involved with the Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Mr. Dale Boyce became Vice- Chairman, he has been a great support for the new Chairman. The general public are invited to all meeting's and are given a chance to bring any matters of concern to the meeting. The Village Cleaner Mr M D Ellington – keen to keep the village clean and reporting any issues that crop up. He is an asset to the Council and the village. On behalf of the Council he should be thanked. The Cemetery is now maintained by CGM who have after a few teething problems tidied the cemetery and kept it under control- this is funded by the Parish Council. The Council are responsible for maintaining the Infilled Canal that runs between the A1122 and A1101. NCC give a grant of £1,000.00 per annum. The rest is funded by the Parish Council- it costs over £3,000.00 a year to maintain. Council was helped in 2019 with sponsorship from local business towards the cost of the maintenance. Council are very grateful to the local business for their support. The Council also pay for the streetlighting and maintenance of the streetlights throughout the village apart from St. Andrews Road and Birdbeck Drive. There are 77 streetlights throughout the village.

The Annual Get Together was hosted by Outwell Parish Council, at The Crown Lodge, Downham Road, Outwell. It was noted this year, that numbers are dwindling. This occasion is a chance for both Council's to socialise as well as chat a little about issues. Council kept the Precept this year as low as was possible it was raised this year by 10% – this was since in years gone by the Precept has been kept very low and Council and have not raised previously for the rate of inflation. Finances are kept to a minimal and Council considers that all requirements for the Parish are made at any request. Parish Council are continually being asked for donations and financial help from many organisations, but Council considers that money should be donated to help local causes, one donation this year being The Upwell and Outwell Luncheon Club, St. Andrew's Chapel whom provide our meeting room monthly, invoiced the Council this year instead of a donation being awarded. A decision was then made, due to the expense of the Meeting Room, the location for meetings would be changed. The Council now meets at the Crown Lodge Hotel in a meeting room at the cost of £20.00 per meeting, not hourly. The Council buy and lay a Wreath at the Remembrance Service in November.

Training Meetings and this year particularly- the Police have invited Councillors to discuss and hear issues that are prominent in the County, they are trying to be more involved with the parishes, now that there are no longer any PCSO's, are attended by Councillors to keep them and the Council keep in touch with the many rapid changes of policies etc. Planning Policies Change continuously and therefore Councillors attend meetings and training evenings to keep up. The Web Site is updated monthly- Council is open to having other information on there that is useful to the Parishioners

Traffic and Highway matters are problems that are reported every month and the NCC endeavour to resolve these issues. The other major issue has been the parking of vehicles near the school. This has been ongoing for many years. The new Head Mistress Mrs Michelle Munday and Councillor Mrs Tara Rust meet up for discussions about this matter. New signage has been erected at the each end of the zig zags to enforce notice to people who park

in this area- this initiative is offered to all Parishes that have zig zags a certain length, unfortunately this is still ignored. It has been suggested that police do spot checks. Speeding is a major problem through the village, the Councillors are fighting hard to get two safer crossings installed on the busy trunk roads, A1122 and A1102. Highways have told the Council that this can occur, but funding from NCC is not available, the Parish Council will have to find funding from somewhere. There are three major developments proposed in the Village, Parish Council believes that money from these developments should be made available for the Crossings. A meeting is to be arranged with Elizabeth Truss to discuss the matter. Highways have been to visit the village many times with advise the Council. There is a Speed Watch team that keep records on Speeders and volume of traffic passing through the Village- they also monitor traffic in Upwell, and Three Holes. Unfortunately, at this time the team has dwindled and therefore the team cannot be visible as often as they used to be. Council are to drive to get some more volunteers. Various homeowners at their expense have put up signage to try and deter speeders.

Outwell Playing field is home for Outwell Swifts Football Club.

The Recreation Ground is now no longer used by the youths.

The Village Hall continues to be a successful amenity in the Village with continual use and various bookings made both regular as well as for functions. The Annual Raft Race is a continued success, the fourth Music festival was a great success, getting bigger and better. This is planned instead of the usual Gala. A true community spirit has been gained.

The Council continues in making Tramway and Back Lane a more pleasant and tidy area for the locals to use. Several issues are still to be sorted, this will take time and funding in order get this area completely cleaned up through years of neglect.

Several enforcement issues continue to make more work for the relevant authorities and Parish Council endeavours to continue to make sure that people are acting in the appropriate manner when planning applications are made.

Each meeting representatives from the various village committees report to the Councillors how the local amenities are progressing and Mr Harry Humphrey- County Councillor and Mr Chris Crofts Borough Council report each meeting on matters that are of interest to the Council.

Outwell Parish Council endeavours to support any local project. This year Phase 3 of the Tram Project is in progress at this time. An information board similar to the one in the Health Centre Car Park is to be erected at the boat basin. A project led by a team of volunteers doing the work and raising funds for the project. Other phases of the project are to be located in the Parishes of Emneth and Elm, following the route where the old Trams used to run.

Council considers that any issues raised made by residents can be resolved. They continue to move forward with policies and the changing governing bodies and hopefully as voted by the local people are endeavouring to do what is right for them. In May 2019 there was a local election whereby any parishioner who believed they could be part of a committee that strives for the Parish can be nominated and voted for. Two new members were elected. Mr. Peter Cutting retired in 2019 after many years' service on the Council.

As Clerk I would like to thank all the Councillors for the help and support that is given when requested.