

Wroxham Parish Council

Chairmans report for 2024–2025-year 8th May 2025

Another year has passed incredibly quickly and looking back to this time last year, how twelve months can make considerable differences to plans envisaged going forward.

Last year, I made reference to new additions to the Councillor numbers, hoping the new members to the team would relieve some of the pressures on the existing councillors and indeed our clerk Clare.

Although at the time a good and positive start to the council year. Unfortunately, as the months progressed for separate reasons, we lost what we had gained and therefore the team is now at six, not forgetting Clare within those active members. I mention the word team, as in my opinion that is what we are and how Councillors should endeavour to work. Being a Parish councillor is not an easy task at the best of times and perhaps being a volunteer with a title is not for everyone. The old adage “You only get out” etc. etc.

Once again, how the year has changed. Remembering in early 2024 we experienced major disruption to the village for several weeks due to continued flooding in and around the bridge area resulting in traffic tail backs in both directions along the A1151. Thankfully, and possibly simply due to the lack of rain, the issue was not something we experienced in 2025 or indeed during the early months of the year. Blame it on Climate Control or possibly simply good luck when comparing against our fellow neighbours in Horning, Potter Heigham and down stream to Gt. Yarmouth.

I would also like to think and indeed believe, it was also the involvement of the parish council in dealing with relevant stakeholders over many meetings throughout the later part of 2024 and early 2025, including Anglian Water, Highways and the Multi Agency Group.

During the year, interesting meetings undertaken by myself and fellow members, including site meeting at the Belaugh Water Treatment works, due to sewage issues raised in various articles in the local press, informative perhaps is the best way to describe the morning! Positive, well at least we still have wild water swimmers, ducks and what seems to be Otters?

Ongoing concerns with the over development of the surround countryside from the north, with Cromer, North Walsham, Stalham our neighbouring parish of Hoveton, together with south to Rackheath, Sprowston and Beeston adding to the already congested road networks and general infrastructure in and around the area. Whenever and wherever we can, as a councillors, attendance and voice are readily represented by Wroxham.

Locally we cannot forget our own community, with continue work being carried out at Caen Meadow with a new management plan together with the assistance of the CMWG. Wherry Gardens now well into its six years has recently seen new additions to the playground

together with a recently installed defibulator plus various tree replacements. The popular AGKP has undergone some additional change indeed during the past couple of weeks, and I'm sure once fully completed will be great attractions for the youngsters of the village. The parish cemetery is one to be proud of and indeed continues to be a peaceful location for all those that visit their past loved ones. Plans being considered as to how the cemetery should look towards the next 20-30 years are under discussion. Keys Hill Wood has undergone some serious tree work but maintaining its valuable contribution to the village environment.

The future, what does it hold for Parish Councils and indeed the roll of their Councillors? In light of the Local government reorganisation and devolution? The plans are for Norfolk and Suffolk to be jointly run under a newly appointed Mayor, drastic reduction planned for district councils as we know them, Sadly, it would seem the demise of Broadland DC to a new yet to be redefined authority.

However, there will always in my opinion be a need for community and local representation on behalf of the residents from the bottom rung of the ladder, and therefore, there will always be continued need for parish involvement and its team of councillors to ensure further up the ladder the voice of the community is heard.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow councillors both old and new alike for the support they have given to myself and the council during the year. My thanks also to our County and District Councillor Fran Wymark and District Councillor Martin Murrell for their ongoing support. In addition, my sincerest thanks to Clare our clerk, who has undertaken her role enabling the council and indeed the chair, to run both smoothly efficiently, within financial constraints during what has been somewhat of a trying time due to reduced councillor numbers. Their welcomed ability to share valuable time on behalf of the community has been very much appreciated.

Peter Mantle

Chair

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