

Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham & Ellough Joint Parish Council

Chairs Annual Report, 2024 – 25

Firstly, a big thank you to all our councillors for your continued involvement on behalf of our communities, the council could not function without you.

While the year overall has been fairly quiet the re-emergence of the plans for the IPU on Mill Lane has cast a long shadow that is not yet resolved. We must hope that the planners come to a sensible decision and this particular issue can finally be put behind us. Something I know Cally will be very glad of.

Also on planning the development to the east of Woodfield Close is similarly undecided at the time of writing, now having been in the planning process for over a year. As a significant local development it will be good to finally see a resolution to this and while not everyone welcomes new development it is to be hoped that this will ultimately enhance the village.

After a long pause it is good to see The Fox once again open and seemingly off to a positive start. Although not council business the pub is a community asset and it was sad to see it empty for such a long period of time. Let's hope that the current incarnation proves successful.

Last summer we put up new football nets and I have been pleased to see these being made use of. We had hoped to be further forward with the lease for the playing field by now which would have made it possible to be working on more exciting developments. Unfortunately it is only in the last couple of months that conversations with Sotterley Estate have made any progress so that has seriously curtailed what we could do. However, we do now have a draft lease, whatever its flaws, and a basis for negotiation that is now under way and I am hopeful that in the coming weeks we will be able to arrive at a mutually acceptable position.

It was good to see the resurfacing of Chartres Piece last summer. It was in a dreadful state that is now much improved and no longer a danger to residents.

Jonathan Ward joined the council in June, bringing a wealth of experience and some fresh ideas. Jonathan took the lead on promoting use of the thermal imaging camera for the second year. Then in November we were lucky to recruit our new Clerk, Vicki Ellis; and in December we said farewell to Steve Blackburn who had done a fantastic job as Clerk previously. Vicki has since settled in really well and I'm glad we were able to find such a good replacement. I am also grateful to Steve who has, in an informal capacity well beyond his official end date, supported Vicki in her learning.

Thanks to Cally we once again bought bulbs, and a band of volunteers spent a morning planting them around the top of Sotterley Road and Mill Lane where they further enhanced the roadsides with a flash of early colour.

Litter picks have continued, the last being on a more informal basis. Although it has been difficult to get people involved in this, they are valuable and even if only a few

people take part we still manage to remove a considerable volume of litter from the roadsides.

A part of our plan for the year was to restart the Luncheon Club. Sadly, despite some initial enthusiasm it was not possible to get enough interest and support to make this possible and the idea has had to be shelved, at least for now.

Another part of the plan was to hold a Village Fair later this year. While the original aspirations have had to be scaled back for a number of reasons I hope that the event, being held in August, will be an enjoyable one that is blessed with decent weather.

On the communications front we did issue a Newsletter which seemed to be well received and, time permitting, I would be keen to issue another one fairly soon. We also set up a WhatsApp Community which now has a small number of members. While it will always be better with more members the ability to communicate quickly and easily has proved its worth, both within the council and the wider community and I hope this continues to develop in the coming months.

A year ago when I took on the role of Chair I intended to remain in place, council permitting, for two years. Unfortunately life has other plans and changing personal circumstances mean that I am standing down after just the one year. I intend to remain on the Council and provide as much support as possible to my successor.


As at 31st March 2025

| | Budget | General Fund | All Earmarked | Total |
|-------------------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| RECEIPTS | | | | |
| Precept | 8,000 | 8,000.00 | 0.00 | 8,000.00 |
| Cemetery Fees | | 775.00 | 0.00 | 775.00 |
| Picnic | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Miscellaneous Income | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Earmarked Funds - Receipts | | | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| VAT Recovered | 391 | 391.95 | 0.00 | 391.95 |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS | 8,391 | 9,166.95 | 0.00 | 9,166.95 |
| PAYMENTS | | | | |
| Administration | | | | |
| Staff Costs | 5,308 | 6,453.20 | 0.00 | 6,453.20 |
| Payroll Costs | 100 | 90.00 | 0.00 | 90.00 |
| Mileage | 200 | 169.70 | 0.00 | 169.70 |
| Printing Stationery & Postage | 250 | 181.66 | 0.00 | 181.66 |
| Insurance | 600 | 701.44 | 0.00 | 701.44 |
| Hall Hire | 220 | 206.00 | 0.00 | 206.00 |
| Web Hosting | 55 | 50.00 | 0.00 | 50.00 |
| Membership & Subscriptions | 450 | 245.37 | 0.00 | 245.37 |
| Audit | 180 | 177.00 | 0.00 | 177.00 |
| Laptop | 500 | 383.31 | 0.00 | 383.31 |
| Data Protection | 35 | 47.00 | 0.00 | 47.00 |
| Training | 120 | 128.00 | 0.00 | 128.00 |
| Miscellaneous Expenses | 0 | 221.00 | 0.00 | 221.00 |
| VAT Paid | 0 | 601.22 | 0.00 | 601.22 |
| | 8,018 | 9,654.90 | 0.00 | 9,654.90 |
| Maintenance | | | | |
| Playing Field Maintenance | 1,165 | 1,861.34 | 0.00 | 1,861.34 |
| Playing Field Improvement | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Notice Board Repairs | 200 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Playground Inspection | 70 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Bin Emptying | 55 | 49.95 | 0.00 | 49.95 |
| Pest Control | 200 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Cemetery Management | 400 | 220.00 | 0.00 | 220.00 |
| General Maintenance | 500 | 212.53 | 0.00 | 212.53 |
| Vehicle Sign | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | 2,590 | 2,343.82 | 0.00 | 2,343.82 |
| Community Events | | | | |
| Raising the Parish Profile | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Grants and Donations | 1,000 | 250.00 | 0.00 | 250.00 |
| Earmarked Funds - Payments | | | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | 1,000 | 250.00 | 0.00 | 250.00 |
| TOTAL PAYMENTS | 11,608 | 12,248.72 | 0.00 | 12,248.72 |
| Surplus (-Deficit) to date | -3,217 | -3,081.77 | 0.00 | -3,081.77 |
| Brought Forward 1.4.2024 | 6,242 | 4,874.74 | 9,866.52 | 14,741.26 |
| Transfers between funds | | 500.00 | -500.00 | 0.00 |
| | | | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | | | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Surplus/Deficit | -3,217 | -3,081.77 | 0.00 | -3,081.77 |
| Carried Forward | 3,025 | 2,292.97 | 9,366.52 | 11,659.49 |

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|----------------------|----------|
| Playing Field | 7,437.64 |
| Luncheon Club | 433.38 |
| ElloUGH Village Sign | 1,000.00 |
| Picnic | 495.50 |
| | 9,366.52 |

| Recent Transactions | | |
|---------------------------|---------|------------------|
| Previous Bank | | 12,839.34 |
| Credits | | |
| | | |
| Debits | | |
| V. Ellis | -835.30 | |
| Village Hall Hire Costs | -206.00 | |
| C. Ellis | -35.10 | |
| East Suffolk Services Ltd | -47.95 | |
| ICO - Data Protection | -47.00 | |
| Service Charge 449630182 | -4.25 | |
| Service Charge 452038563 | -4.25 | |
| | | -1,179.85 |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Net Bank Account | | 11,659.49 |

| Bank Reconciliation | |
|--|------------------|
| Lloyds Current Account Statement Balance | 11,659.49 |
| Add: unrepresented credits | 0.00 |
| Less: unrepresented items | 0.00 |
| | |
| | |
| Net balance | 11,659.49 |
| Difference | 0.00 |

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| Chairman |  |
| Clerk | Velis |
| Date | 16/4/25 |