

# BRANDON PARVA, COSTON, RUNHALL & WELBORNE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - MINUTES

Wednesday 17 April 2024, 7:30pm at Welborne Village Hall.

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Present.

Parish Councillors – Simon Guest (chair), Clare Kay, Peter Wood, Mike Webb, John Baldock and Andrew Gill along with the clerk, Bev Long. Also present was, County Councillor Margaret Dewsbury and PC Chris Shelley along with four members of the public.

## 1. Welcome, Introductions and apologies for absence.

Simon Guest as Chair of Brandon Parva, Coston, Runhall & Welborne Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting. Simon briefly explained the reason for a parish meeting along with the format of the evening.

Apologies were received from Mattishall Primary School, Brian & Margot Hancock – litter wardens, Mattishall Surgery, Jack Long – Coston Footpath warden, Welborne Clergy team and PC Helen Busfield.

## 2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting – 12 April 2023

The minutes of the 2022 meeting were signed by the chair as a correct record of the meeting without amendment.

## 3. Presentation by PC Chris Shelley (OP Randall rural crime officer)

PC Shelley introduced himself and briefly explained his background - in current post for last 4 years, previously PCSO for 10 years.

Some of the information PC Shelley shared with us.

- ❖ Operation Randall is a small team of officers supported by beat officers.  
Rural crime covers:
  - ❖ Tractors – theft of, including GPS systems. Gangs work nationally – some arrests have been made.
  - ❖ Hare coursing – illegal in 2005. Big money is involved. Travelling community are 99% involved as it is their tradition and status situation. Coursing usually occurs Sept - March. In 2019/2020 301 calls made – 2023 down to thirty-four calls and so far this year 2 calls have led to prosecutions. Due to the change in legislation police have new powers - increase in fines and being able to recoup kennelling costs which are massive from defendants.

- ❖ Dangerous Dogs legislation – animal welfare work takes up quite a lot of time and resources.
- ❖ Wildlife crime – PC Shelley leads on this. There has been a significant increase in reports and crimes. Including bat issues, badger sets, fox hunting, egg collecting, seals, ground nesting birds and birds of prey with particular issues of poisoning.
- ❖ They do not necessarily prosecute everyone, sometimes it is about educating them.
- ❖ Public – play an especially important part – to report crimes as if the police are not aware they cannot deal with it. Report even if you think it is insignificant – may be the final piece in the jigsaw puzzles.

Questions raised.

- Fly Tipping – this sits with District Council not within police powers but they would assist the councils. If a crime is in progress the police will come out. If large scale/commercial then the environment agency leads.
- 101 reporting form - agree form is not great and needs reformatting but it is a government lead form so must be standardized for national statistics.
- XL Bullies - lots of exemption certificates issues but kennels are quite full of dogs who haven't had exemption certificates applied for.
- Heating Oil - 1 report of theft per month is average across the county. A lot less than previous years - more issues with theft of tractor diesel and white diesel from building sites
- Horseback police – some happen in Suffolk by volunteers. In Norfolk it is the Special Constabulary with two horses available. They support rural crime mainly for hare coursing but do not usually patrol.

PC Shelley advised everyone that they could sign up to receive the OP Randall newsletter – search Norfolk Police Connect and tick rural crime plus your interests.

#### 4. Report by the Parish Council

Simon Guest as Chair of the Parish Council outlined some aspects of his report.

- ❖ 5 Councillors elected in May, one subsequently co-opted onto council – currently one vacancy.
- ❖ Parish benefits from having several active community groups which the council try to support.

- ❖ Planning – we continue to review all planning applications albeit there was a significant reduction in the number received in 2023.
- ❖ Highways – continue to work with the County Highways Department to resolve problems. Encourage everyone to report issues to Highways direct.
- ❖ PROW's – all PROW's are reviewed on a regular basis by our 4 PROW wardens. The paths have remained generally in a good condition.
- ❖ Four litter wardens work hard to keep the villages clean and litter free.
- ❖ Budget – slight increase in precept – less than 1%
- ❖ Police updates – regular updates from the police whose main priorities in our neighbourhood are speeding and theft.
- ❖ Communication – a newsletter continues to be distributed following all council meetings – many thanks to the great team who enable this to happen.

Simon thanked Bev Long the clerk for her support and work for the council, fellow councillors, Margaret Dewsbury and Richard Elliott for their great support and attendance at our parish council meetings and all the Parish Groups for their hard work.

The full report is an appendix to these minutes.

## 5. Reports from parish organisations, county and district councillors, other bodies

**Margaret Dewsbury, County Cllr** whose full report is an appendix to these minutes spoke about; Council tax rise, adult and children social services, new gritters, potholes and flooding along with adult education the fire service and libraries.

**Deborah Bourassa, Runhall Community Group** – gave a brief report – full report is an appendix to these minutes. Funds have been raised to complete phase 2 and 3 – a new play fort, roundabout and seating will be installed at the play area in the next few weeks along with a defibrillator in the exchange. Many thanks go to Richard Elliott (District Cllr) for his support and help with gaining funding which kick started the entire fundraising project.

**Tina Redshaw, Welborne Village Hall** – gave a small report regarding the trustees of the hall endeavouring to install a small play area at the rear of the hall. Her full report can be found as an appendix to these minutes.

Simon thanked everyone for their reports – all these and other reports received form part of the appendix to these minutes.

## 6. Open Forum

No further discussion or questions raised.

## 7. Closing remarks

Simon Guest thanked everyone for attending and to those who had given reports both at the meeting and those submitted electronically. An open invitation was offered to everyone to attend any future Parish Council meetings.

Written reports from the following bodies form part of these minutes:

- Brandon Parva, Coston, Runhall & Welborne Parish Council Chair
- Welborne Litter wardens
- Coston Footpath warden
- Margaret Dewsbury – Norfolk County Councillor
- Runhall Recreation Ground – Allotments
- Runhall Community Group
- Mattishall Surgery
- Welborne Village Hall – play area.