

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

4/4/2018

I'm pleased to say that the Parish Council structure is now in a much better place than last year at this time. Every Parish needs a strong Clerk/Financial Officer and I'm pleased to say that Sheryl has fully taken ownership of the role in an extremely competent and professional manner. We also now have Bobby and Henry on the team, bringing with them an added diversity of experience. I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for their support and acknowledge the understated continual input provided by them, in maintaining the fabric of Brisley village life.

It has been a hard year exacerbated by the weather and there has been, a number of warranted complaints with regard the state of the churchyard and general maintenance of the village and amenity area. We have however now changed the groundwork contractors and look forward to a better consistency of service this year.

Flooding has also been a problem for many. The Clerk has been in touch with Breckland Council and Highways several times with regard this issue and will continue to do so with a view to improving the situation if possible. Some elements however may be integral to the way we, as a village, maintain dykes, ponds water courses and waste outlets. This problem I'm sure will lead to an ongoing discussion.

A concern for Brisley is the problem of Japanese Notweed/Himalayan Balsam. Although there are no guarantees of complete eradication, we have entered into a 3 year plan of treatment, which will be assessed for effectiveness.

Another dog bin has been installed. We now have 5 in the village! We are determined to eradicate the problem of dog fouling allowed by a few dog owners, as much as possible. Additional measures are presently being looked at.

Larger lorries moving at speed and much wider farm machinery continue to cause problems on our narrow roads which were never designed for such use and the demands of consumers today. As a Parish Council we will continue to write to the appropriate authority, to discuss measures that might help in any way.

Fund raising, always necessary in village communities has provided for the addition of 2 defibrillators, five a side pitch with nets, 2 adult exercise machines and a notice board, yet to be put in place. No doubt there are more items and more people involved, but I would like to thank in particular Tony Irons and Dave Pearson for their continual success on the fund raising front. There is also an exciting initiative from David Diggens and the Bell with regard restoration of the village ponds. The Parish Council looks forward to discussing this further in the coming months.

I would just like to wish Brisley Parishioners, The Village Hall, Cricket Club, Allotment Society, School, Church and the Bell an excellent 2018.