

Trunch Parish Council

An Ordinary Meeting of Trunch Parish Council was held in the Methodist Church Community Room on Wednesday 4th September. The meeting was attended by the Clerk, the County Councillor, nine Councillors and two residents.

A casual vacancy for a Councillor has been advertised and at the print deadline one application has been received.

A resident of the village reported the result of his ongoing correspondence with Sir Norman Lamb MP and Mark Ashwell, the District Council's Planning Policy Manager. It was confirmed that the recent house building, barn conversions and dwellings at planning stage will not count towards the allocation of dwellings for Trunch contained in Part 2 of the Local Plan. This allocation, subject to further consultation, will be announced in the Spring of 2020.

After a suggestion by a resident of the village, backed up by several complaints from users of the playing field regarding the continued fouling of the grassed area by dogs, the Parish Council is investigating the possibility of imposing an Order banning dogs from the field. This would be a retrograde step and is only being considered due to the continuing abuse of the field by the small minority owners who refuse to clear up dog poo. This is an indication of just how much the matter of uncleared dog poo is irritating the community as a whole. The Parish Council should not have to consider such an issue. Offending dog owners, please clear up after your dog before you spoil it for all the other responsible dog owners in the village.

The new goals have been installed on the playing field and the Parish Council and Village Society received the thanks of the football players. The marker posts on the playing field car park have remained in place since being repositioned. The decision to have an additional dog waste bin at the entrance to the playing field off Amis Close is to be held in abeyance pending the results of the enquiries into whether or not dogs can be banned from the playing field. A new covered litter bin is to be provided in the children's play area.

The footbridge in Trunch Oakwood (Coronation Wood) is closed to pedestrians for safety reasons whilst major repairs are planned and carried out. Please do not attempt to use the bridge until repairs have been completed.

Further repairs to the road surface outside of the Crown Pub are required. The sunken gully cover at the entrance to Blacksmiths Close has been reported to the County Council but not yet repaired. The incorrectly placed direction 'fingers' on the post at The Hill opposite the Crown have been altered to face in the correct directions.

A quotation for the sum of £50 for the removal of the low hanging branches on the tree at the junction of Pyghtle Close and Knapton Road has been accepted.

The owners of the land adjacent to Pyghtle Close near Fullers Lane have been contacted and have undertaken to cut back the overhanging hedge/shrubs which have caused a nuisance for so long. Some owners may not be aware that their overgrown hedges are causing a nuisance to pedestrians, especially during wet weather. If you have hedges bordering or overhanging footways can you please check that they are trimmed back to your boundary.

Following a report from the allotment Task and Finish Group the Council is now holding discussions with the Diocese of Norwich, the freehold owner of the allotment sites, in order to ensure that the land continues to be available as allotments. In relation to the management of the allotments the Council also decided that in future residents of Trunch should be given priority in the allocation of vacant plots, that new allotment holders should in future pay a deposit of £30, and that allotment rents should be increased (but only with effect from October 2020).

Due to the lack of volunteers, the Village Society are no longer in a position maintain the wild flower garden in the Rectory Meadow which forms part of the cemetery. In the circumstances, the Council has accepted a quotation for the grass cutting and the trimming of an adjacent hedge in the sum of £350 per annum.

The Council has agreed to set up a Facebook page. Details of this will be made available as soon as a Social Media Policy has been introduced.

In our continuing efforts to get motorists to observe the speed limit within the village, the white 'gates'/fences, which provide additional warning to them that they are entering a village with a 30mph speed limit, have now been installed. These have been provided under a Parish Partnership scheme with the Norfolk County Council at a cost of £1820.

The Council has received a request for organised Walking Football to be staged on the playing field. Residents are welcome to organise teams as a social activity and if there is sufficient interest and someone is willing to arrange matches please let me or the Clerk know.

The full Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings and details of the Councillors can be found on the Parish Council website www.trunchparishcouncil.co.uk The next meeting of Trunch Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 2nd October at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church Meeting Room. A Parish Council page also features on the Village web site www.trunch-norfolk.co.uk
Brian Boughton, Chairman – Trunch Parish Council