

Bradfield Combust with Stanningfield

Parish Council

Village Matters

Issue No 12

March 2015

Village Hall Update

Following our success in achieving another £4,000 grant from the 'Suffolk Empowering Communities Fund' which brought our total to £16,500, and as the quote from BEK Plastics Ltd had come in around the same figure, it was decided to progress with the replacement windows and cladding to the Village Hall. By the time you read this work should just about be completed.

Total money raised was:-

- £6,500 from the Parish, all the clubs and some very generous individual donating plus fund raising
- £2,000 from Councillor Terry Clements locality budget
- £4,000 from the Suffolk Empowering Communities Fund
- £4,000 from the Rural Grants Initiative Scheme

Thank you to everyone who helped to achieve this great result.

Neighbourhood Watch.

Date for your diary: **Tuesday 28th April at 7.30pm**. All in the Parish are invited (encouraged) to attend a NHW meeting in the Stanningfield village hall (Church Road, IP29 4RE). The meeting will formally launch the Stanningfield NHW scheme with a new co-ordinator in post and will be attended by our Community Watch Liaison Officer - Cheryl Peace, her colleague Diane Townsend, and hopefully our local Safer Neighbourhood Team Police Community Support Officer and Police Officer. Please do come and engage with the team that look after us so well.

999 in an emergency / **101** for less urgent calls / **0800 555 111** anonymously

Bingo Dates

Bingo takes place the first Friday of each month (excluding April which is Good Friday) during 2015, the next date is Friday 1st May- Doors open at 7pm Eyes Down at 8.00pm.

May 1st - June 5th - July 3rd - August 7th - September 4th - October 2nd - November 6th - December 4th

Dates for Your Diary

Village Fete:-

7th June at the Village Hall: plants, cakes, books and fun.

Fun On The Green:-

11th July is now set for our 2015 'Fun On The Green': bring a plate, have fun, games and Fancy Dress for the kids, and live music in the evening.

Damage to Bus Shelter / Recreation Shelter

It's sad to see that our new Bus and Recreation Shelters have been damaged by mindless vandalism after so many people worked hard to provide these great new facilities for the village. If you know who did this please contact either a member of the Parish Council, Police (**101**) or Crime Stoppers (**0800 555 111** – anonymously).

Anyone found to be damaging these shelters or anything else will be prosecuted!

Council Tax Rises

There have been some questions and queries regarding the percentage increase applied to the Parish Council section of the latest Council Tax bills.

The main reason for this is the cutting of grants applied to our Parish budget.

Both St Edmundsbury and the Local Council Tax Scheme (LCTS) Grant have for the last two years cut our grants and in another two years the grants will cease altogether. In 2013/2014 the grant represented £3,262 of our budget, in 2014/2015 it will drop to £2,164 and by 2018 it will have gone completely.

It is considered good practice for Parish Councils to have a reserve of four months expenditure; currently we have less than half of this.

We have of course looked for ways to reduce expenditure but when you consider the three largest items of expenditure make up approx 75% of our total out goings; these are:-

- Parish Clerks wages and expenses (this is a legal requirement)
- Insurances
- Grass cutting

The actual increase represents 32p per week or £16.64 per year for a band C property rising to a maximum of 69p per week or £35.96 per year for a band H property.

As a Parish Council we have also worked hard to achieve extra money from other funding sources and over the last three years have been able to gain over £30,000 at no cost to the Parish (apart from those who have made generous donations). Projects include:

- New Bus Shelter at Stanningfield
- Recreational Shelter on the Green at Stanningfield
- New War Memorial on the Green at Bradfield Combust plus a donation to
The Royal British Legion
- Up-date of the Village Hall with new windows and external cladding
- New chairs for the Village Hall
- The purchase of two Marquees for Parish events
- The purchase of a new Gas Powered BBQ
- The purchase of a Projector and Screen

If you would like to discuss this in more detail then please contact any Councillor or attend a Parish Council meeting, further details are published on the Parish website @ <http://bradfieldcombust.onesuffolk.net/>